

THE JOURNAL

50 cents (tax included)

Man About Town A Crazy Coffee Caper and collateral calamities [A3]

Inside El Cerrito appoints new economic development director [A8]

Group forms to rally support for Cerrito Theater

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER
EL CERRITO — Hundreds of people are rallying to save the city's historic art deco Cerrito Theater after a deal to restore the movie house and use it once again as a silver screen fell through a couple of weeks ago. "Friends of the Cerrito Theater"

was formed last week, and, thanks in large part to the immediacy of e-mail, already has more than 150 members intent on protecting the vacant San Pablo Avenue theater.

"It's like electric, the kind of response I'm getting, and from lots of interesting people offering their support," said Lori Dair,

one of group's founders.

The group has launched an e-mail and letter campaign in the hopes of bombarding city officials and council members with pleas to find a way to save the Cerrito.

Ideally, group members would like the city to buy and renovate the property as a redevelopment

project to prevent it from ever being destroyed.

"We want to ensure the theater gets preserved in perpetuity," said Dave Weinstein, another of the group's founders and a member of the city's historical society.

Used as a furniture warehouse for the past 40 years, the

Cerrito was an entertainment hot spot from the 1930s to the 1950s, showing a range of films. It was one of the smaller art deco theaters of the era, catering to mostly working class patrons, who often took in a show after grabbing a bite at a long-gone soda fountain.

See CERRITO, Page A8

IF YOU GO

What: El Cerrito City Council and Redevelopment Agency meeting
When: 7 p.m. Monday
Where: Council chamber, Garden Room, Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito.

Albany schools hitting high and low notes

Schools budget ax cuts deep

IF YOU GO

What: Albany school board special session on budget cuts.
When: 7 p.m. Thursday
Where: Cornell Elementary School multi-purpose room, 901

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The school district's ailing budget endured its first round of cutbacks this week as officials worked to slice \$1.5 million from Albany's \$22 million school budget.

School board members voted Monday to shave nearly \$1 million in teacher, administrative and other staff positions. Another \$500,000 in reductions will be voted on at a special meeting next week.

"We know we're taking some hard cuts, but I'd have to say I don't think we feel defeated by it," said Albany school board president David Farrell. "It is Albany, and we're going to come through this and manage it. We're just in a real hard time right now."

Cuts made this week will reduce the district's librarian staff from three people to one. Eighth graders and many high schoolers will no longer have a seventh class period.

District psychologists will be harder to come by, as will cur-



TROMBONIST FIONA GLADSTONE practices with the Albany High Jazz Band Wednesday morning. This and other Albany High Jazz bands will be performing at a fundraiser on March 11.

Pros join AHS music students in benefit concert

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Like any good school music department, the music room at Albany High School is stocked with chairs, 8-by-10 photos of band students, music stands and, of course, instruments of all sizes and sounds. Tucked away in another room is a state-of-art drum machine, and multi-track recording studio.

The school is blessed with an

eclectic and complete music program, but Albany High School music teacher Tom Lilienthal and the school's music parents are concerned about its future, with the school district making cuts in music, in an effort to bridge a \$1.5 million budget deficit.

In reaction to the cuts, the Albany High School Music Boosters is hoping for a turnout for the Albany High School Groove Fest, taking place at 7 p.m., March 16

at the Albany High School Little Theater, 603 Key Route Blvd.

There will be performances by the school's jazz, rock and 1960s and 1970s rhythm-and-blues ensembles, along with the jazz band from Albany Middle School and professional jazz musician Frank Martin and his band. Suggested donations are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

See MUSIC, Page A4

CONCERT

What: Albany High School Groove Fest

When: 7 p.m. March 16

Where: Albany High School Little Theater, 603 Key Route Blvd.

How much: Suggested donation: \$8 adults, \$5 children

Information: 510-558-2500

Voters again asked to come through for schools

Critics question how accountable the district has been as it seeks its third bond measure in five years

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

Ask Stephanie Teng why she votes to approve Measure D on Tuesday's election, and the first thing she'll do is show you her school's bathrooms.

She'll marvel at the fact that there's — finally — soap in the restrooms and comment that the small is not too bad today. She'll rattle on about stalls that don't lock, lights that don't work, chipping paint, leaking pipes, a rain-soaked running

MEASURE D

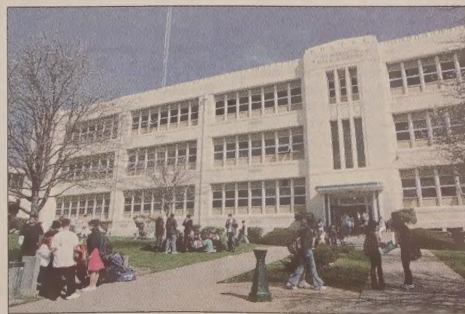
Measure D is a \$300 million bond to repair middle and high schools in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. If needed, the money could also be used to pay for elementary school upgrades. The bond would have a 37-year term and cost property owners annually an average of \$49.91 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

track and dingy student union.

At some point she'll stop to say this: "One of the things that you can't see, that I think is the main thing, is that this place is in an earthquake zone. That's really the issue here."

There are a lot of people who agree with Stephanie. It's actually hard to find anyone who doesn't think the middle and high school campuses in the West Contra Costa Unified School District aren't in shambles.

But not everyone is as gung-ho as Stephanie on Measure D. The \$300 million bond measure that goes before voters on Tuesday is the third bond put before



EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL students would see improvements to their aging main building if voters approve Measure D, a \$300 million bond measure on Tuesday's ballot.

voters since 1998.

The \$40 million Measure E, mainly used for a new and still under construction Richmond middle school, was approved that year. Measure M, a \$150 million bond geared toward fixing the district's elementary schools, was passed in November 2000.

If voters approve Measure D, property owners will have an annual average school-related property tax bill — for Measures E, M and D combined — of \$82.77 per \$100,000 of assessed value, according to Acquacena Lopez, a school district bond consultant. The figure will peak in 2008-2009

at \$117.35.

Some homeowners worry about that increase in their tax bill, others question the school district's fiscal stability. Some, like David Cole, are still struggling over past school district mishaps.

"I know that I have hesitations," said Cole, a member of the Pinole City Council. The council surprised itself and others earlier this month when it joined San Pablo, El Cerrito and Richmond in backing the bond measure.

See SCHOOLS, Page A4

New bicycle lockers at Plaza BART go upscale

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Construction of state-of-the-art bike lockers is expected to begin soon at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station and city officials say it will improve aesthetics, help prevent vandalism and theft and increase BART rider convenience.

BART ridership has increased within the last couple of years, and there are high bike-parking demands at the Plaza BART Station. BART officials say there is a waiting list for the 29 bike lockers already in use at the Plaza, but those will eventually be removed, according to a city staff report.

BART and city officials like the bike lockers because they cut down on bike theft and vandalism. Bikes chained on racks outdoors are sometimes stripped for parts or stolen.

"In terms of lockers versus bike racks it seems people prefer them because a thief cannot remove things like lights, so it's a little more secure than a bike rack," said Laura Timothy, a BART senior planner.

But the lockers aren't perfect. Though residents sign a contract stating they will use them only for bikes, motorized two-wheel vehicles or wheelchairs, people sometimes use them to hold other belongings, for sleeping or for other reasons.

"The biggest problem with them is that people rent them for \$30 a year and most of the time they're empty," said Jill Keimach, community development director. "Although they have a waiting list, the use isn't maximized."

The 48 new lockers in the structure will be greatly improved with a mesh metal screen that will allow the contents inside to be seen and the use of electronic keys that will allow more than one person to use them at a time. The older lockers were assigned to just one person to use for several months.

The city has been working for about four years to get the lockers built, said Bruce King, maintenance services manager, after a plan to redevelop the area with retail, office space and housing

See LOCKERS, Page A4

INDEX	
Price Reports	A2
Opinion	A6
Shire	A7
Community Folk	A7
Opinion	C1
Opinion	C6

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Go up a creek

Help a creek that has seen the light at Poinsett Park, from 9 a.m. to noon on March 16, between Poinsett and Rosalind avenues. Five years ago, the Urban Creeks Council daylighted a section of Baxter Creek as it flows through Poinsett Park in Richmond. The creek was in a pipe, under the street, and was brought above ground, or daylighted. The banks were planted with native plants and now the creek offers habitat to birds, insects and frogs. Take this opportunity to see a successfully restored creek in El Cerrito, and tend to the willows and other plants that were installed five years ago. No special skills are required. Gloves, snacks and water will be provided. Dress for the weather as work will happen rain or shine. For more information, contact Apple Zsostak, of the Aquatic Outreach Institute, at 231-5778 or apple@aoiinstute.org.

Jazz in Albany

The Albany Jazz Band plays big band jazz in a free concert on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Albany High School, 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany. Details: 510-524-9530.

Blues in the night

Nightlife, the new band featuring psychedelic blues guitar legend Harvey Mandel and special guest lap steel guitar virtuoso Freddy Roulette plays from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. on March 2 at Club Muse, 856 San Pablo Ave. in Albany. The band includes Michael

"Bones" Borbridge on drums, Michael Warren on bass and Max Bran on keyboards and vocals. Guest musicians will include Henry Kaiser, David Vega and Pete Sears \$6 cover charge. Details: 510-528-2878.

Inter-district transfers

The Albany Unified School District is now accepting inter-district transfer applications for the current year. This is a recent policy change. There are openings at some (but not all) grade levels; there are waitlists for some high school and middle school grades, but new applicants can join the wait lists. Students must have and maintain a C average and good disciplinary record. Details: 510-558-3765.

On stage at CCCT

Contra Costa Civic Theatre's PlayMakers series will present "The Unexpected Guest," an Agatha Christie thriller/puzzler that opens a Pandora's box of loves and hates, suspicions and intrigues. The production, directed by Richard Flynn, will be on stage March 1-10. Tickets: \$8. CCCT is at 951 Pomona Ave. in El Cerrito. Details: 510-524-9132 or online at www.ccct.org.

Summer camps

A free summer camp fair will be held on Sunday, March 17, from 1-4:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive in Oakland. At the Summer Resources Fair, sponsored by the American Association of University

Women, families can learn about summer camp options for parents and children. Get information about day and residents camps, specialty camps and family camps. For more information, call Babs Wardwell, (610) 525-6312. For a free directory of northern California camps accredited by the American Camping Association call 800-362-2236 or check online at www.acacamps.org.

Preschool stories

The Albany Library presents "Saturday Morning Stories and More" for ages 3-6. The free series runs every Saturday at 11 a.m. through March 16. Details: 526-3720.

Teen sex talk

"How To Talk With Teens About Sex" is the topic of the workshop for parents of teenagers on Thursday, March 7, in Room 812 at El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. One of the most difficult things for parents is to discuss issues of sex with their children. This workshop will present ways parents can bring up the subject without embarrassment, have constructive conversations with their teens, and get across their values without alienating everyone. Presenter Linda Farrell is a licensed marriage and family therapist in El Cerrito and was a high school counselor for 25 years. This is a free workshop open to everyone and co-sponsored by the El Cerrito High PTSA and West Contra Costa Adult. Details: 510-559-2660, ext. 205.

ALBANY CHAMBER NOTES

Naked lunches and a drunken mayor

By James Carter

GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE: Last week all 12 readers of this column were confounded by a detailed account of a business dispute in El Cerrito — a city up north named after Albany Hill.

The column appearing in this space under my byline was actually penned by Mr. Sewall Glinertnick from the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce.

Members of that venerated institution certainly would have been properly mortified if they thought for even an instant that an Albanian with a checkered past seized the helm of their beloved Chamber.

Fortunately the masthead linked the piece to the Albany Chamber, preventing an uprising in that peaceful, beautiful city.

The entire incident was the result of human error.

Rather than state the obvious — we all make mistakes — let us take to heart the insightful words of the renowned zoologist, author, and philosopher, Dr. T. Bellington Strange, who, in her award-winning book, "All Things Must Pass," said: "Scat Happens."

A little history

Speaking of Albany Hill — that massive mound of bedrock that dominates the local landscape — settlers from Spain and Mexico initially called it El Cerrito, "the little hill." ("Now I understand," someone in the gallery said.) Yet there were other names as well.

Mrs. Helen Beall sent Ruth Ganong a letter in October of 1980 recollecting how she celebrated her ninth birthday about what she called "McKeevill Hill." Beall's mother led an expedition of children there before a trail provided easy access. It was May 6, 1908, and it happened that on that day, the Atlantic Fleet sailed into San Francisco.

Fourteen thousand sailors manned the stations of those ships, later dubbed the "Great White Fleet" due to their color: the battleships were painted white, a gilded scrollwork on their bows.

"It was a very strenuous hike up the hill," Beall recalled, and "I was willing to call it quits. But my mother was successful in urging me on. Even though it was a long distance view of the ships, it impressed me. And we had

punch and cookies under the trees at the top. There were no bridges across the Bay, of course, and it was an unobstructed view."

OF COURSE back then, Albany was called Ocean View. It was not until August of 1909 that our town acquired its current name. At that time, there apparently was one too many Ocean Views in the area, though in the East Bay, there is not a single spot where one can actually see the sea. However, the issue was hotly contested in a special election staged on Oct. 25 of that year. Thirty-eight voters decided in favor of the name change, six opposed, according to "Stories of Albany," a wonderful little book by the late Catherine Webb available in our library.

Voters chose the name Albany to honor their mayor, Frank Roberts, who was born in — of all places — Albany. (It is not clear which Albany Roberts hailed from, or if it had an ocean view.) A handful of folks suggested the name "El Cerrito," but cooler minds prevailed, Roberts was honored, and the rest is a mystery.

Yet this much is known: Mayor Frank Roberts was quite popular in town back then, though he ran into opposition later in his checkered career. A group of Albanians organized a recall election to force him from office in April of 1914. It seems that our first mayor did his best to contribute to the local economy, purchasing and consuming large quantities of liquor — a selfless act he performed frequently, and with enthusiasm. Many citizens argued the tonics, elixirs and brews impaired his judgement, prevented him from attending town meetings, and often sedated him when he did. It was a sobering moment in Robert's life. Yet he fought back with gusto and easily prevailed in the election.

According to Webb, Roberts was a "consummate" politician. Describing a political battle fought years before the recall, Webb attributed his success to "good use of his lobbying ability with the women of the (Albany) Improvement Club."

"He did some good things," Webb said. "He typified the fiercely independent belief that Albany should remain distinct and run its own affairs."

And so it came to pass that McKeevill Hill became Albany Hill. El Cerrito named their city after a giant mound of rock in our town, and there is no Ocean View anywhere except on Buchanan Street.

New member:

Ruen Pair Authentic Thai Cuisine opened its doors to the public just six months ago, yet has already established a reputation for excellence recognized by the most discriminating palates in the world — Bay Area food critics. Owner Tim Sintop and his wife, Reuchuda, transported secret — yet traditional — Thai recipes from that ancient nation where subtle Asian flavors, fresh ingredients, and Eastern herbs fused with complex French sauces and technique, producing an exotic mix so seductive that it would have converted Puritans into pagans.

Master Chef Nivit Imjurt, Reuchuda's father, earned a reputation as a chef and an artist. "People have always loved his cooking," Tim explained. One visit and you will understand why. Take the catfish salad, for example. Fresh catfish is prepared with attention to detail, carefully ground and deep fried until flaky and light, then served atop a spicy apple salad.

Then there is the Naked Prawn Salad, shellfish marinated with garlic, fresh chili, and lime juice, served chilled — and nude — on a bed of julienne carrots and cabbage.

The curries are delightful, the seafood fresh, and the noodles superb, herbs, spices, and traditional Thai dishes authentic as claimed.

But wait, there is more. Gorgeous artifacts from Thailand surround families who dine there. Young couples sit close together at Ruen Pair at night, when the lighting sets a romantic mood and the food stimulates one's appetite. Open seven days a week for lunch or dinner, Ruen Pair is located at 1045 San Pablo Ave. You can also visit their Web site, www.ruenpair.com, or call them at 510-528 2375.

POLICE REPORTS

Arrest made in wee hours on Pierce

By K. Osborn

CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the morning of Feb. 18 a resident at 555 Pierce Street reported that an in-home aid/helper had stolen jewelry and money from her home. Police took the report.

On the night of Feb. 18 a business on the 1000 block of Solano Avenue reported that vandals had kicked in the gate behind the business.

On the afternoon of Feb. 18 a resident on the 1000 block of Pomona Avenue reported that during the night thieves broke into her son's red '88 Volkswagen and stole items from inside.

On the night of Feb. 18 officers responded to an apartment building on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue to investigate several vehicles that had been broken into. Also, a white '90 Toyota had been stolen.

At about 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 19 officers located a 22-year-old Los Banos man on the 700 block of Cleveland Avenue who had been reported as missing. He was reunited with his family.

Albany officers observed two subjects acting suspiciously on the 500 block of Pierce Street shortly before 3 a.m. One of the subjects ran when officers approached. The 36-year-old Hayward man was apprehended and arrested for possession of burglary tools and possession of drugs. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

Shortly after noon on Feb. 19 officers investigated a car on the 400 block of San Pablo Avenue that had a broken window. The owner was notified.

At about 1 p.m. on Feb. 19 a resident on the 1100 block of

Garfield Street reported that thieves had stolen her red '90 Toyota Camry.

Officers investigated reports of a subject sitting on the ground on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue with his leg in the roadway on the night of Feb. 19. They arrested the Berkeley man, who they determined was intoxicated, for disorderly conduct. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

At about 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 21 a resident on the 700 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that his blue '87 Toyota Camry had been stolen within the previous two hours.

At about 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 a man reported that while he was at Albany Middle School, a man described as Hispanic, 5-foot-6, weighing 150 pounds and wearing a dark hat, had just stolen his video camera. He was gone when officers arrived.

On the morning of Feb. 22 an Orinda man reported that thieves had stolen his car during the night while it was parked on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue.

At about 2 a.m. on Feb. 23 officers stopped a black '01 Mercedes for speeding on Marin Avenue near The Alameda. The driver, a 35-year-old Kensington man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the field sobriety test, was arrested for DUI, cited and released with a notice to appear.

On the afternoon of Feb. 23 a resident reported that thieves had stolen his blue and black Mongoose bike that had been chained to a pole on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue.

A resident on the 1100 block of Washington Avenue re-

ported that she returned on the afternoon of Feb. 23 to find her home had been burglarized. She said she had been gone for about two hours.

At about 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 23 officers stopped a Ford van for a traffic violation. The driver, a 40-year-old Richmond man, was cited for driving with a suspended license in the amount of \$150. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

Shortly after noon on Feb. 23 officers located a 1987 Toyota van parked on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue that had been reported stolen from Richmond. The towed and the owner notified.

On the morning of Feb. 23 officers responded to a 1991 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a subject appearing to be intoxicated. The subject was cited and released with a notice to appear. The 63-year-old Palo Alto man and found him so intoxicated that he was unable to care for himself. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

During the wee hours of the night, officers towed two vehicles sponded to 13 false animal, assisted four persons who were locked out of house or car and responded to four reports of a burglary. In the domestic arena, officers responded to 14 civil disturbances and 174 civil cases. Officers stopped 139 vehicles persons issuing 84 citations, 55 warnings. Firefighters responded to one and 14 medical emergencies.

Hit-and-run accident results in an arrest

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A man was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and felony hit-and-run after police determined he was involved in an accident at San Pablo and Central avenues at around 10:10 p.m. on Feb. 23. The man failed to provide the required information at the scene or check on the condition of the occupants in the other vehicle. The two people in the other vehicle had minor injuries and were transported to a hospital.

A man was arrested on suspicion of robbery at a store at El Cerrito Plaza after he tried to steal items and then tried to stab a security guard while trying to escape, according to police reports. Police responded at 7:23 p.m. on Feb. 23 and transported the man to the county jail.

A man was arrested on suspicion of theft after it was reported he tried to steal items from a store on the 11000 block of San Pablo Avenue at 10 p.m. on Feb. 23. The man was booked for felony theft with prior convictions and taken to the county jail.

A man was arrested on suspicion of theft after it was reported that he tried to steal items from a store on the 11400 block of San Pablo Avenue at 12:45 p.m. on Feb. 24. Police booked the man for felony theft with prior convictions and took him to the county jail.

The cabinets of a garage on the 5900 block of Central Avenue were rummaged through sometime between 12 a.m. and 12:40

p.m. on Feb. 17.

A man reported that at 4:03 p.m. on Feb. 17 that the stereo was taken from his vehicle on the 5300 block of Rosalind Avenue.

A woman in the 200 block of Colusa Avenue reported at 3:08 p.m. on Feb. 25 that the stereo had been taken from her vehicle.

Two men tried to steal baby formula from an El Cerrito Plaza store at 3:50 p.m. on Feb. 17. They dropped the formula and ran when store employees began chasing after them.

A woman was arrested on Feb. 19 at 8:15 p.m. after trying to steal earrings from a store on the 10000 block of San Pablo Avenue.

A woman was arrested on suspicion of embezzlement after she was reported giving a 50 percent discount to her boyfriend's family at 5:42 p.m. on Feb. 20 at a store on the 11000 block of San Pablo Avenue.

A woman's purse was stolen at 6:10 p.m. on Feb. 10 while she was shopping at a store

on the 2000 block of El Cerrito Plaza.

A woman reported that on Feb. 15 that the contents of a fire extinguisher were sprayed on her vehicle while it was parked on the 6800 block of Stockton Avenue.

A woman reported that on Feb. 15 that the contents of her vehicle were smashed the contents of the glove compartment ransacked while it was parked on the 2300 block of Mono Avenue.

Security staff at a store the 10000 block of San Pablo Avenue hit a man on the head with a bottle after the man grabbed the staff person by the arm. The man was trying to steal a bottle of brandy but was caught shortly after 3:05 a.m. on Feb. 23.

A BMW was reported stolen from the 1500 block of Drive at 6:39 a.m. on Feb. 23.

Police were called to a video discs from a store on the 11000 block of San Pablo Avenue at 7:50 p.m. on Feb. 18.

You can email letters to the El Cerrito Journal or Berkeley Voice at: journal@cctimes.com or voice@cctimes.com

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NEWS BRIEFS

Memorial service for Jerome Blank

ALBANY — A memorial service honoring the life of former Albany mayor Jerome Blank will be held Saturday, March 2, at 2 p.m. The First Church of Religion Science, in the Main Sanctuary, 5000 Claremont Drive in Oakland. A reception will follow in the First Church Social Hall. Those who plan on attending are asked to RSVP to the Reverend Deborah Blank, 510-594-7407, or Jerome Blank Realty, 526-4215. For detailed driving directions, please call First Church at 510-547-1979, ext. 3.

Composting at home

EL CERRITO — The community is invited to a free home composting workshop from 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, at the Arlington Clubhouse, 100 Arlington Blvd.

Learn to recycle yard and vegetable trimmings in your own backyard and you won't need to buy fertilizer anymore as you use your home compost to improve the condition of your soil. You will win a free home composter (valued \$89). Sign up now by calling 510-503-0201.

Presentations about ferry service

ALBANY — The Water Transportation Authority will be giving two presentations about the future of the Albany ferry line.

The first is on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the regular Berkeley Waterfront Community Meeting (verify location with City Clerk at 510-981-6900). The second is on Monday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the regular Albany City Council meeting, 1000 San Pablo Ave. at Marin Avenue.

The authority will be discussing the current status of the ferry line, the planning process they are undertaking, opportunities for public support and input, why ferries are a good alternative for East Bay residents, and different types of boats and ferry systems.

The meetings were organized by Berkeley Ferry Committee and the Friends of the Albany Ferry, two groups that advocate the establishment of a new ferry/Albany ferry terminal where near the foot of Market Street.

Their goal is to promote a safe, effective, convenient, and environmentally responsible ferry service. Advocates say Berkeley Albany need a transportation alternative to the Bay Bridge, as well as an essential emergency link following a significant earthquake or disaster. It would also provide a key recreational amenity for the Eastshore area. Call 510-525-1743 or 510-559-1743 for more information.

Communicating with teenagers

ALBANY — The Albany High School PTA is hosting a parent

education evening with marriage and family therapist Dave Dixon, entitled: "The Anatomy of An Argument — How to communicate with your teen when anger gets in the way" on Monday, March 4, from 7-9 p.m. in the Albany High School multi-purpose room (on the corner of Key Route Boulevard and Portland Avenue.)

This workshop will focus on the tension between adults and teens in the home and offer information concerning the role of parents as well as practical suggestions for helping families deal with the emotion of anger. There will be an interactive group exercise as well as an extended question-and-answer period.

Dixon is coordinator of the Student Assistance Program at Albany High, assisting teenagers who have alcohol or other chemical dependency issues. For AHS PTA members, there will be a brief business meeting from 6:30-7 p.m.

This event is free and all are welcome to attend.

Forum set on health, welfare of students

OAKLAND — The Commonwealth Club of California will present an April 3 discussion on "Improving the Welfare of Our Children," with panelists Dennis Chaconas, superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District; Edward Penhoet, dean of UC Berkeley's School of Public Health; and Assemblywoman Wilma Chan, a former Oakland school board member.

The discussion will focus on issues affecting the health and welfare of the next generation as the panel explains how limited access to healthcare and other policies hinder academic achievement, and the need to alter the concept of education reform. Learn how to fundamentally change children's lives for the better, and how communities can mobilize to support the healthy development of young Americans, who too often suffer from malnutrition, asthma, AIDS, and abuse.

The free morning forum starts with at 7:30 a.m. with coffee and rolls, followed by the program at 8:15 a.m. It takes place in the City Council Room on the third floor of Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza in Oakland. Reservations are required and can be made at 415-597-6705/6706.

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See BRIEFS, Page A5

Coffee, hemp, treated wood menace health

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS saying, "There oughta be a law." Unfortunately, a lot of these nutty notions actually become law. And now I too have a recommendation: certain types of coffee should be classified as controlled substances. The following circumstances and events have led me to this conclusion.

We buy our coffee at Peet's on Solano Avenue in Berkeley. When you buy a pound of coffee there, you are offered a complimentary cup of the brew of the day. Peet's has a wide range of coffees which run (skipping the nickel) from nine bucks for the House Blend — which we drink — up to \$80 for the Jamaica Blue Mountain. They package that one to sell by the half pound to reduce sticker shock, cardiac arrests and the resulting loss of customers.

Peet's rotates these fine bean beverages daily as their complimentary coffee. So one day you could hit the jackpot and take up on the Jamaica Blue. However after downing a cup of the delicious (\$18 a pound) Arabian Mocha Sanani, I would advise extreme caution when ingesting any these exotic substances.

Walking back to the bank parking lot where I had parked, I began to feel much more alert, alive. At the time I did not realize that this as a warning signal that I was about to go on a Crazy Coffee Caper. (Give me credit for resisting the temptation to spell that with K's.)

In the lot I encountered, Luis, the attendant. We have chatted many times, which is a good thing as I shouldn't have sneaked in that 15-minute shopping run after doing my banking business. And there was no denying it with the coffee in my hand. Well, I never took in a movie, had lunch, or got my hair done the way freeloaders did before the bank hired Luis to supervise parking.

So he and I talked, and the next thing I knew I was doing standup comedy. And I was running hot! I was hotter than a turbo diesel with a leaky radiator. I was so hot the surface of the parking lot was shimmering and mirages were starting to form. I was — alone.

And I didn't even see my audience of one melt away. When you clear the house like that, you better pack it in before the cops show and give you the hook. Well, maybe not in Berkeley. So I took a few bows to the remaining cars — even some of them had left — and went home.

By the time I got there, I had mentally finished a column I was working on and ripped into a new one. I knew my



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

Walking back to the bank parking lot where I had parked, I began to feel much more alert, alive. At the time I did not realize that this as a warning signal that I was about to go on a Crazy Coffee Caper.

wife, Rae, would like to hear all about it. And she would have if Jim Lehrer had not been interviewing Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on TV. When Ole Rummy talks, I listen, no matter what I'm on. Ultimately he may save America, maybe the world: all I know now is that he saved Rae from a quarter hour of caffeine comedy. And don't think she isn't grateful to him.

At dinner she filled the gondola of my coffee balloon with hearty, middle American cuisine. That brought it down for a gentle landing in the Nash Bridges show. But soon I found myself thinking how much alike Nash and I were: tough, cool, smart cracking — Red flag! Klaxon horn alert! The balloon was going up again! Not wanting to spend the night writing one liners, I shipped another slab of apple pie for more ballast. That finally ended my Crazy Coffee Caper.

Perhaps passing a law against these high octane coffees would be going too far. It might be sufficient to put a warning on the package that the contents could turn you into a wanna be Rodney Dangerfield and endanger all your human relationships.

On the other hand, if we did criminalize certain coffees, this would get the attention of many druggies who would switch to them and off uppers, poppers, coke, crack, Ecstasy and other really dangerous substances.

Could I have stumbled on a solution to much of the drug problem which has proved intractable for so long? Why don't you have a cup of Peet's House Blend and ponder that one. My wife has put me on weak tea and grounded my

brain, so you'll have to work out the rest yourselves.

■■■■

WATCHDOGS AT WORK:

Although the federal government is not yet on to the coffee menace, it is working day and night to save us from life-threatening substances with which we have unwittingly lived for many years. Hardly a week passes that I don't read of another menace to my health which these busy bureaucrats have ferreted out.

One of the latest of these is hemp. I have known from some time that this plant contains small quantities of THC, the psychoactive substance found in marijuana. But I naively thought that since I hadn't even smelled a joint containing this jelly making chemical for years, there wasn't much chance of it leading me into a life of shame and degradation.

Wrong! The New York Times reports that hemp seed oil is used in the manufacture of some pretzels, waffles, snack bars, and "dozens" of other food products. True, they don't contain enough THC to have a "mind-altering effect or show up on tests." Nevertheless, next month the Drug Enforcement Administration plans to start enforcing a new rule treating foods that contain "any amount" of THC as controlled substances. This means they will be as restricted as heroin.

Actually, foods are only a small part of the global market for hemp used in products ranging from Mercedes door panels and Armani placemats through Body Shop Butter (sounds delicious) to numerous common ones like twine, carpet, paint, soap, clothes, and diapers. These nonfoods will not be banned. So as long as you don't obey Bart Simpson's injunction to "eat your shorts," or your kid's diapers, you should be safe from the dread THC in them.

The capitalist gangsters who manufacture food products containing hemp are screaming like stuck pigs as usual. They also filed an appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to block the ban.

A benevolent DEA suspended its prohibition on the hemp-tainted eatables for 40 days to give the judges time to consider the matter. The feds also extended the "grace period" for manufacturers to dispose of these products. But the Times says the agency has, "no intention of softening its prohibition on food made with hemp." Yes, it seems odd to me, too.

"We take our responsibilities seriously," DEA spokesperson Rogene Waite assured a waiting world. If you doubt how serious a problem hemp is, look

what happened to President George W. Bush while wooing down pretzels: He pretty near died from them! When dealing with a substance that almost decapitated our government, there is clearly no time to wait on what a panel of stuffy old judges may decide.

■■■■

ENVIRO WATCH TOO:

If the feds fail to sniff out some lurking menace to the public weal, rest assured the environmentalists will be on point for them. Now these ever-vigilant folk have discovered that arsenic is used in the manufacture of pressure-treated wood which resists insects and other destructive organisms. Anybody who has put a piece of untreated wood in or near the ground and looked at it a year or so later knows how fast these critters go to work.

Perhaps because the Environmental Protection Agency did not discover this menace first, it is nowhere near as sure as the environmentalists that this green-tinted lumber is going to do us in. The Los Angeles Times reported that the EPA "has not concluded that arsenic-treated wood on decks, picnic tables, and play sets poses 'unreasonable risks to the public.'"

These federal officials even said that parents and homeowners didn't have to replace their decks or play sets made with pressure-treated lumber or refrain from buying any still in the stores. This irked people like Jan Houlihan, president of something called Environmental Working Group out of Washington, D.C. She gave it her best shot: "Children increase their cancer risk every time they play on this wood."

That did it! If a group believed to have any public support accuses a federal agency of endangering the children, it will throw in the towel every time. Sure enough, the EPA, which cuts individuals no slack, backed down and said it would phase out the treated lumber within two years.

It also said that it is reviewing the product and will publish a "preliminary risk assessment" — next year! Better late than never I suppose.

Don't get me wrong: I'm really thankful to these busy bureaucrats and busybodies who care so much about my health. Well, probably not so much about my health as that of my great-grandson. After all, I somehow lived long enough to have one while scarfing down pretzels on a porch I built in part of pressure treated wood. True, I never licked or sucked on the stuff, and I never knew anybody who did. But it could come to that the way the new hemp-free foods may taste.

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Music

FROM PAGE A1

Started four years ago by the Albany High School Music Boosters, the Groove Fest has become an annual tradition, where the school's ensembles join professionals for a night of performing and fund-raising. Normally, the funds are used to buy new musical equipment, but this year they will become part of an effort to raise \$250,000 to fund the salaries and benefits next year for the district's three music teachers.

"We're not raising money for instruments or music or anything like that," said Liz Taylor, a band parent, "because if we don't have a program, why have all of that?"

The district's music departments are among the many programs facing budget cuts because of the district's budget deficit. The school board has already made more than \$50,000 in cuts to the music program.

Music teachers and parents are concerned that if the middle and elementary schools are targeted, the high school music department will soon collapse because students from the lower grades would fail to feed into it.

Lilienthal is worried about not having a job next year, having the least seniority among the music teachers. And he's concerned about the program itself, having brought more than 35 years of professional music experience to the school. He now teaches 120 students in two symphonic bands, a jazz band, a rock 'n' roll class, a '60s and '70s soul class



STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

TOM LILIENTHAL directs saxophone player Tim McKay and the rest of the Albany High Jazz band during practice Wednesday morning.

and a music production class. Joan Sextro teaches three choirs at the school.

Lilienthal said students are thrilled to be part of the program, with some taking private lessons, playing professionally outside of school and coming in during lunch hours to jam.

"Everybody got their start somewhere and a lot of people got their start and training in a high school music program," said Lilienthal.

"For these kids, this is an es-

sential piece of their lives," added Taylor.

To save the music program, the boosters and Lilienthal have come up with an ambitious plan to bring four nationally recognized headliners to perform in the school gym in the future. Lilienthal said he's using his connections in the industry to recruit performers that he said audiences will be clamoring to see, and in the process raise enough money for salaries and benefits for all of the district's music

teachers.

"The plan is that we actually have one or two artists in-hand by the time the Groove Fest hits," said Taylor.

In the meantime, Lilienthal and Taylor expect a sold-out house during Groove Fest.

"We're using the Groove Fest to get the community on our side and let them know what's going on, and ask them to share our vision," said Taylor.

formation we have, I'd say no."

To prove his point, Lynden brings up the new Richmond middle school, which ballooned to more than twice its advertised size and cost after voters passed Measure E.

"When you're dealing with taxpayer dollars, I don't know if it's reasonable to do that sort of thing," Lynden said.

But even Lynden admits that it's hard to say no to something that children seem to need so badly, and that's where 81-year-old Joan Haber enters the picture.

Haber, a Kensington resident whose children went through West Contra Costa schools in the 1950s and '60s, said she's dismayed by the decline of her neighborhood schools.

"When my children went to the schools here they were very good, they were excellent," Haber said. "And I'd like to see them restored back. And they're not going to get (there) by not fixing them."

Kara Shire covers education. Reach her at 510-262-2798 or kshire@cctimes.com.

Eastshore

FROM PAGE A1

in the preliminary stage, the land is being divided up and labeled according to suitability levels — two being more suitable for passive sports such as Frisbee, and three with an option for organized sports such as soccer and softball.

"If the plan doesn't show levels two and three for Albany, it will be very difficult to get that (use out of the plateau area)," Maris said. "I think a compromise could be worked out later."

But most of the council members were uneasy about making any recommendation before hearing from the Berkeley Waterfront and Parks and Recreation commissions, whose members are better informed on the issue.

Soon, a rough picture of how the land might be developed will be available to the public, and workshops will take place over the next year so that residents can participate in the process.

In a recommendation, Councilwomen Miriam Hawley and Maudelle Shire asked City Manager Weldon Rucker to write a letter of support for the inclusion of "active recreational uses" on the Albany Plateau, located near

Buchanan Street and

80.

"Our support would stipulation that the facilities be developed in accordance with State Park and recreation guidelines for active recreational uses, and that preservation of wildlife habitat should be a primary consideration in the fields are developed," wrote.

Yet other members didn't have enough information to make a decision and instead against jumping the gun.

"It is absurdly premature this council to adopt a recommendation," said Councilwoman Kriss Worthington. "It makes sense (to take any action) when the plan comes out."

Berkeley officials have lobbied by dog walkers, surfers who want access to the beach, and wilderness preservationists. This week's council meeting, Sierra Club was named as an organization that has letters to the city in favor of maintaining wildlife habitat.

The council will take commissions to give them information later this month.

Reach Clare Curley at 510-3576 or ccurley@cctimes.com.

Lockers

FROM PAGE A1

around the BART station fell apart. The city then concentrated its efforts on bike storage.

The lockers are supported by state and federal funding and regional governmental organizations such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which tries to "encourage bike transportation rather than people driving to BART and parking," Keimach said.

The bike storage facility will include the new lockers, racks

and landscaping along Ohlone Greenway on the side of the BART station. The \$360,000 project will come from state, federal and regional grants. A final grant from the California Transportation Commission is tentatively awarded to the city, allowing the construction to proceed.

"We're just happy the project is off the ground and construction should start soon," King. "So persistence pays."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

Schools

FROM PAGE A1

"We all pretty much went in (to that council meeting) with a no vote in mind. We were going to stay as long as it took for (school district officials) to convince us not to vote no. That was our attitude — show me why I should vote yes, impress me. And they came close."

Cole said he decided to support the bond because he sees a benefit for kids. Plus, he said, he sees the school district working to better its relationship with his city.

"We see progress," Cole said. "And we see that these schools are going to fall apart without this money, there's no way the district is going to survive without it."

School board member Glen Price is just as emphatic.

"It's absolutely crucial that we pass Measure D on Tuesday," Price said. "It will be the only way that we can address really crucial facilities issues in our sec-

ondary schools."

The Measure D project list includes phone system upgrades, seismic assessment and mitigation, demolition and replacement of portable classrooms, new irrigation systems, new all-weather tracks, new wiring and more.

The long list reflects the need, but it also reflects a fact of Proposition 39, which allows for a 55 percent voter approval rate and stipulates that every project bond money will fund be named on the master list. It does not say that every project on the list must be funded or completed.

Tom Lynden, a Hercules accountant with kids at Pinole Valley High and Hercules Middle-High, has emerged as the loudest Measure D critic. Lynden doesn't deny the need, but he says the school district has yet to prove its ability to spend money wisely.

"They do need to improve the schools, and there are projects that need to be done," Lynden said. "So in general principle, clearly it's a good idea. The questionable part is, do they have the ability to do it. Based on the in-

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Pros and cons of Measure K and Prop. 40

Park supporters say funding is needed, while opponents question other taxation during a recession

By Matthew Leising
STAFF WRITER

Two measures on the March ballot, East Bay Regional Park District Measure K and state Proposition 40, ask voters to approve money for parks, water maintenance, open space preservation and historic preservation locally and throughout the area. But opponents of the measures say the accompanying increases in taxes and bond debt are fiscally responsible given the present tough economic situation.

Measure K seeks to increase local taxes in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to fund environmental maintenance; add firefighters and park rangers; and increase public access to the EBRPD's 59 parks. Measure K would raise \$8.5 million annually by assessing a 10-cent increase for single-family parcels and a 69-cent increase for multi-family units. The tax, which requires a vote of 55 percent to be approved, will expire in 12 years.

Since 1988 the EBRPD has sought to expand parkland by 100 acres, or 31 percent, with the use of bond money from Measure K. Under state law, that money cannot be used for maintenance of new parkland, leading the district to propose the ballot measure.

Gradually the district's ability to operate and maintain its parks is being eroded, and that's the reason for Measure K," says Ned EBRPD spokesman MacKay.

"We like to think we have as good a regional park system as any in the country, and we'd like to keep it that way."

If passed, Measure K would, for example, restore native fish and plant species to Redwood Creek, replace the foundation at Fire Station No. 2 in Redwood Regional Park and repave a wheelchair path behind the Visitor Center in Robert Sibley Regional Park.

Yet opponents of the measure say the district already has the money for these improvements. "The tax increase is totally unnecessary," says Ken Hambrick, chairman of the Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers. "We're not opposed to parks at all. We love our parks. We're opposed to a tax to bring more revenue to a district that is already awash in money."

Hambrick says the district already gets increases in tax revenue as property values, and hence property taxes, continue to increase.

State Proposition 40 asks voters to approve \$2.6 billion in bonds to protect rivers, lakes and streams; improve air and water quality; restore historical and cultural resources; and preserve open space and farmland from development. The state estimates that Prop. 40 would cost California \$4.3 billion over the 25-year payment schedule.

Proposition 40 proponents say California needs to make up for the drought in park-oriented bond measures in the 1990s and that now is a good time to take on debt, because interest rates are low. "I think it's very appropriate to use bonds for long-term investments, and we can afford it," says John Woodbury, director of the Bay Area Open Space

Council. "If we want to move forward (with environmental improvements), we need new funding."

Woodbury says California has room for more bond debt, citing an informal rule-of-thumb that states use to determine the level of bond indebtedness they take on — usually around 5 percent of the annual budget. According to the State Department of Finance, California is spending 4.6 percent of its general fund for bond payments. "Prop. 40 is just a small piece of what's available," Woodbury says.

Opponents point to the growing state deficit, saying the last thing California needs is more debt. "We can't afford it," says Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in Sacramento, the state's largest such organization. "The (state's) Legislative Analyst's Office just announced we're \$5 billion deeper in debt than we thought," Coupal says. "This is no time to be going on to general obligation debt."

Opponents also point to Propositions 12 and 13, both passed in 2000, that provided \$2.1 billion and \$1.97 billion respectively for many of the same items enumerated in Prop. 40.

But Woodbury says the money from those propositions has been allocated and went to many projects that had been awaiting funding for years.

Coupal counters that the state should fund neglected park and environmental projects, but only when the state's economy is strong. "OK, let's make it up at some other time," Coupal says, "but not when the state's teetering on the brink of recession."

Matthew Leising can be reached at mleising@actimes.com.

briefs

PAGE 1

activity control, emergency communications, hazard mitigation, damage assessment, and fire and neighborhood preparedness. The training course consists of a classroom session and hands-on drill; both parts are optional, say organizers.

The classroom session is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on either Sat-

urday, April 13 or Saturday, April 27. The hands-on drill is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11.

The course is free and open to everyone, though a reservation is required. For location and reservation, contact NEAT Program Coordinator Pat Cafel at 510-525-7268 or cafel@atjunio.com.

Intergenerational dancers debut

EL CERRITO — It may look

like the seven women who dance together Wednesday mornings in a small Berkeley studio are just playing around. But the dancers, aged 24 to 83, are joyfully rebelling against the stereotypes of age and art through an intergenerational dance project called "Risk of Falling," which comes to Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St. in El Cerrito on Saturday, March 9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m.

ALBANY PTA NEWS

Albany PTA Council

March 6, Albany Jazz Band Concert by Albany Adult Education Big Band, 7:30 p.m., AHS Multi-Purpose Room (corner of Key Route Blvd. and Portland Ave.). Free.

Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Molly Mitchell at mm1123@aol.com

March 1, "Hello, Dolly!" student production opens, AHS Little Theater on Fridays, March 1 and 8 at 8 p.m.; Saturdays, March 2 and 9 at 8 p.m.; Sundays, March 3 and 10 at 4 p.m. Tickets \$7/adults, \$5/students and seniors. Call 510-558-2575 for reservations.

March 4, AHS Parent Education Evening featuring Dave Dixon "The Anatomy of an Argument: How to Communicate with Your Teen when Anger Gets in the Way," 7 p.m., AHS Multi-Purpose Room

March 7, Instructional Improvement Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Asst. Prin. Conf. Room

SCRIP Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 510-527-0745 or e-mail Edna at ednashipley@aol.com

Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at ltopn@earthlink.net March 7, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Library

March 13, AMS Parent Education Evening, Helping our Kids Discover Positive Body Image, with Patty Hertz, MSW, 7:15 p.m., AMS Library, e-mail questions in advance to pattyhertz@aol.com

SCRIP Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 510-527-0745 or e-mail Edna at ednashipley@aol.com

REMINDER: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Cornell Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Barbara Grady-Ayer at gradayer@aol.com

SCRIP Orders: Call Mark Privin 528-2082 or e-mail Mark at privwest@pacbell.net

Marin Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at marintree@aol.com

SCRIP Orders: Call Helene Class at 526-4902 or e-mail Helene at h.class@att.net

Paper Scrip for sale in the office Mon-

day, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Ocean View Elementary School

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Dolores Dalton at ddorens@jps.net

AUSD Board of Education

March 7, Special Meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

April 1-5, Spring Break NO SCHOOL

Thanks to Albany SchoolCARE (an independent fund-raising organization) for their ongoing efforts to sell scrip benefiting Albany PTAs.

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

EL CERRITO PTA NEWS

Bayside Council of PTAs

Final membership dues payments for 2001-2002 should be sent now to Michele Jawad, Bayside Membership Chair, 7717 Eureka, El Cerrito 94530. The deadline for memberships to count for this year is Feb. 28.

Adams Middle School

Join the PTA for \$7 per member. Send your payment of \$7 per member and include the member's name, address, phone number, student's name, along with the email address. Send in your membership to Adams PTA, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805.

PTA Voice Message Box: Weekly updates of what is happening at school. The number to call is 510-464-1360, ext. 70.

E-mail Group — Weekly email bulletins

sent. Send your email address to cchan2429@aol.com

Castro Elementary

Fund-raisers: Castro is enrolled in eScrip (ID#137627554). Albertson's, Target, and SchoolPop fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 510-236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Castro when you shop.

El Cerrito High

NEW SCRIP SALES: El Cerrito High School PTSA is enrolled in the eScrip program. Our group ID is 5221087. Keep informed: Join the ECHS email forum. To sign up, please e-mail Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@attbi.com.

Portola Middle School

Teen Center — Monday through Thurs-

day from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. Fee - \$6 drop in or \$50 monthly. Great activities, trips and special events. Call 510-215-4370 for more information.

E-mail forum — school information and meeting notices direct to your e-mail box. Send your e-mail address and request to be on the mail list to Kathy Travlos travlos@dnai.com.

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 237-6183 or email: ltakimoto@yahoo.com

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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

Yes on Measure D

THE VOTERS OF West Contra Costa have come through twice for their young people in the recent past, passing school bond measures in 1998 and 2000. The West Contra Costa Unified School District is now seeking approval of a third measure on Tuesday.

Measure D would bring the district \$300 million for repairs and upgrades to its middle and high schools.

This is not an extravagance. District facilities as basic as restrooms and roofs are in poor shape due to years of deferred maintenance as the WCCUSD struggled to balance its budget and emerge from bankruptcy. Much of what isn't dilapidated is antiquated by today's standards, or not in compliance with building codes. Buildings contain hazardous building materials such as lead-based paint and asbestos. Seismic assessments remain to be made.

It all adds up to a decidedly substandard and possibly unsafe learning environment for our young people.

That voters have already approved two measures shows how far the district has come from its days of insolvency. That the district is asking for more shows how far it has to go.

District critics cite the slowness with which the district has moved on projects earmarked for Measure M, passed by voters in 2000. This is a valid criticism, and the district should move to expedite work.

But criticisms aside, the needs that Measure D focuses on are real, they aren't going away and the costs will only increase if we reject this measure.

Coupled with its two predecessors, Measure D is a major obligation for taxpayers, but an inevitable one if we are to give our children the learning environment they deserve. We urge a yes vote on Measure D on Tuesday.

A day when reading gets the attention it deserves

IT'S READ ACROSS America Day, in honor of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Volunteers recruited by the Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE) are going into the schools and reading to the children today.

It's a great idea — adults taking time out of their day to come to a school, open a book and share its wonders with young people.

There's no better way for children to learn what's important than by seeing adults treat it as important. And reading is just about the most necessary skill a person needs in this age of information.

Reading is active, where watching a television screen is passive. Reading invites us to use our imaginations to make a story come fully to life.

Apart from being a pleasant pastime, reading introduces us to worlds we might not otherwise encounter.

Our mental worlds would be much poorer without the wacky landscapes and characters Dr. Seuss created in words and pictures — not to mention the messages he delivered through them.

Reading introduces us to memorable characters — just let your mind drift back for a moment over the fictional people you've met through novels or the real people you've read about through biography.

But even more than that, reading encourages the use and development of mental muscles like few other activities (playing music does too, but that's a whole other effort worthy of our attention).

Reading invites us to think, and to internalize the music of language. Both those skills are needed for reading's necessary counterpart: writing.

There's really only good to be said for an effort to get people to read to kids. The only thing better would be if we were reading across America every day.

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Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

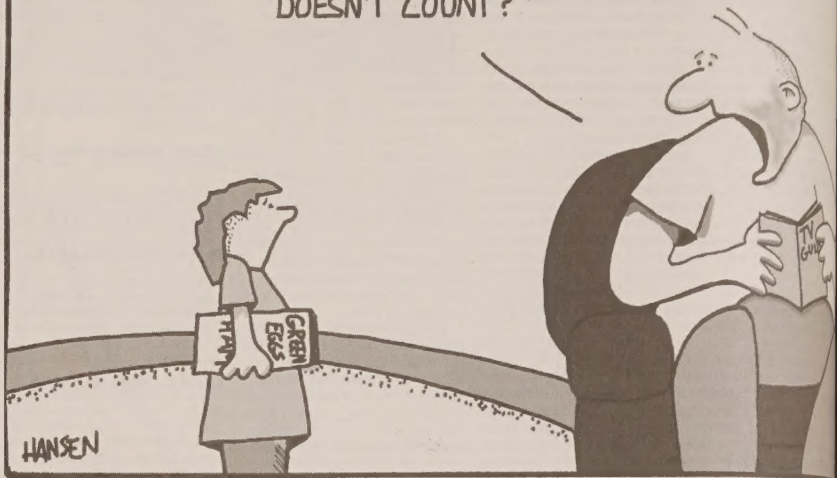
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IT'S READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "TV GUIDE DOESN'T COUNT?"



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Measure K necessary

As the Sierra Club's long-time leader on East Bay Regional Park District issues, I urge a yes vote on Measure K, which would cost homeowners \$1 a month and 69 cents to renters — to fund park district operations desperately needing funding.

Over the past decade, the park district has increased by about one-third and many acres of open space have been saved for parks and wildlife habitat. Meanwhile, inflation has cut the operating budget by 30 percent, causing inadequate funding. As a result, many park areas can't be opened and repairs of facilities can't be made.

Measure K will provide funds to open up parks, such as the new Eastshore State Park. It will also fund a list of repairs and provide funds for wildlife and habitat protection and enhancement programs.

The money from the tax can only go to pay for a list of projects worked out over a year by the park district and groups such as the Sierra Club. It will be separately accounted for and will not just be thrown into the general fund.

Each year, the district will make an accounting in a public hearing. The tax will sunset in 12 years.

The Bay Area is one of this country's most endangered ecosystems. If we value the future, we must ensure our premier park district has the funds necessary to keep the system working for us and the wildlife.

Please join Sierra Club, Save the Bay, Golden Gate Audubon Society, and the Alameda County Taxpayers Association in supporting Measure K.

Norman La Force,
El Cerrito

Simon is impressive

I am a proud conservative Republican. I vote in every election and was a delegate to the state party convention recently. I have lived my entire life in California and have seen better and worse times in this state.

Republican Bill Simon is the only gubernatorial candidate in the March primary who has spoken to my wants and dreams for myself and for my native state. While both his opponents and Gray Davis spend their time attacking one another, Simon is busy talking about his dreams for a bright future in California and how he will make that so. While his opponents talk of where blame belongs, he talks about progress and hope.

I watched Simon in the debate and was impressed by his clear vision for California. He did not stoop to the level of his opponents, who spent their time making personal attacks against each other.

I'm proud to support him.

Rory Miller
Berkeley

Support firefighters

Recently, I read some interesting statistical information. I was unaware that on average, firefighters only live five to seven years beyond retirement.

After years of the physical and emotional beatings that come with the job, combined with the numerous career-related injuries and disabilities, a retired firefighter's quality of life is greatly compromised.

Firefighters know the risks they face. Yet, these heroes cast aside second thoughts for their own safety in order to save someone else daily. Their satisfaction in knowing they've made a difference outweighs the personal safety risk.

Gov. Davis recently made possible a 3 percent at age 50 retirement calculation for members of the Public Employees Retirement System. This is a standard for most area fire departments. Yet, Albany is not one of them. It's high time Albany firefighters are included. This may not sound like a huge difference, but to those whose lives have been considerably shortened and adversely affected, five years makes a tremendous difference. For once, I'd like to see Albany's employees receive what is just and fair in a timely manner, rather than being the very last on the list, as they normally are.

I urge all whose lives have ever been touched by a firefighter to show their support in what is only right: that our Albany firefighters are granted the 3 percent at 50. Now is the time to speak on their behalf.

The Albany Firefighters Association is in the process of negotiating a new contract with the city. This is the ideal time to address your elected officials on this issue. It's the least we can do for these angels in uniform!

Bridget O'Shaughnessy
Albany

Don't need measure

The East Bay Regional Park District has a lot of nerve putting Measure K, a new revenue-raising measure, on the ballot.

Measure K offers up a laundry list of pet projects to please all manner of its pressure groups, but mostly to obscure the central point, which is: It does not need the money!

Why haven't they admitted to the public that their revenue take has been soaring? EBRPD's own figures prove revenues went up 29 percent in two years and are continuing to increase far beyond cost of living. (See www.friendsofparks.com for the documentary proof.)

What is the park district doing with the \$100 million per year it is already receiving? One hint: EBRPD General Manager Pat O'Brien, heading an agency of only 533 permanent workers, is already earning more than the governor of Cali-

fornia. Moreover, he and all other managers at this top-heavy organization are getting another raise on April 1, regardless of this election.

Vote against Measure K. It taxes poor disproportionately. It leaves the business sector out scot-free, and most importantly, EBRPD has been obscuring the truth about its presentable financial circumstances.

Karen W.

Weber was East Bay regional manager from 1977 to 1996.

Thanks, Tauscher

Rep. Ellen Tauscher was criticized for voting against "fast track" (Jan. 10). She responded that Californians need employment benefits extensions before needs trade promotion authority.

"Fast track," a tool of free trade, the World Trade Organization, is designed to circumvent communication, education and discussion — democracy's hallmarks.

Since 1983, there's been almost a trickle down of economic growth to U.S. families. More than 90 percent of all earnings gains have gone to the richest 1 percent. (Corporate executives get great bonuses for unnecessary thousands of families.)

In 1999, the average compensation package of top U.S. CEOs included bonuses and stock options, worth times that of average blue-collar workers.

The WTO and International Monetary Fund contribute to world hunger, the poor in fertile developing countries go hungry while their crops are expected to pay off the interest on their loans.

Because nations who corporatize abolishing their taxes, countries need to continue providing social insurance, their citizens must cut safety programs. South Africa's an example: results of water price increases privatization brought on by the World Bank and IMF loan conditions. Those who pay for their water had their pipes cut off. They then resorted to polluted water, resulting in a cholera outbreak.

One fourth of almost 500 American CEOs polled admitted they were likely to use NAFTA as a bargaining chip to hold down wages.

"Fast track" gives the president the power to enact these "trade" deals without a flack from us.

Thank you, Tauscher, for standing against secrecy and for voting for people.

Joan R.

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THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Oakland voters think they deserve Jerry Brown

POLLS AND THE
polls predict the
thing: Jerry Brown
back into office
as much as 70
of the vote. And his
could be long enough
his City Council candi-
dacy.

the voters of Oakland
what they're getting
if Brown wins as
expected, he's going to
that as a mandate to
steam ahead with his
huge gambling
in the old Oakland

gambling industry gets
what you call it gam-
bling they prefer the term
"as if removing those
makes it sound
But whatever you call
it is Robin Hood in
takes from the poor
to the rich.

Do believe me? Check out
at Golden Gate
one of the card
in Emeryville. I don't
be unkind, but they're
Gambling preys on
people and leaves
more desperate. It
their hopes and dashes
turning a tidy
in the process.

has some nasty side
Just ask the people of
City. They thought

gambling would boost the local
economy. Instead, it just cre-
ated more crime. Ironically,
many of the jobs that were cre-
ated didn't even go to local res-
idents; the casinos brought in
their own people. And the At-
lantic City economy is more de-
pressed than ever.

This is what we want for
Oakland? If Jerry gets his way,
you'll be able to see the neon
lights of his pleasure dome all
the way from San Francisco.
Great image for Oakland, huh?

Some well-intentioned peo-
ple, who would ordinarily op-
pose a gambling den, are re-
luctantly backing this project
because they think it would
help the Indians.

But read the fine print:
There's a bill wending its way
through the state Legislature
that will exempt 12 cities from
the requirement to involve In-
dian tribes in their casinos.
And which city tops the list?
Oakland.

Do we really want this city
to become another Reno? Let's
think twice before we start
playing with the gambling —
oops! I mean gaming — indus-
try. It might look like a good
deal, but they hold all the aces.

Which brings up the ques-
tion: What do the voters of
Oakland see in Jerry Brown
anyway, given his cockamamie

ideas (i.e. the military acad-
emy), his bizarre appointments
(Paul Cobb, Wilda White and
Jacques "Mr. Hands" Barghaz),
his imperious governing style,
and his spotty — to put it chari-
tably — record of accomplish-
ments?

I think it's due to a collec-
tive inferiority complex. Never
mind that Oakland has great
weather, gorgeous architecture
and some of the nicest people
in the entire Bay Area. The city
has been the butt of jokes for
so long, the people are starting
to believe it themselves.

That's why they respond to
a guy like Jerry Brown, who
oozes contempt for them out of
every pore. They think they de-
serve it.

They also think the only
thing that will "save" the city is
a mayor who is a celebrity. And
it's true: Jerry is known
throughout the country. Of
course, most of the country
thinks of him as a clown. But
hey: Any publicity is good pub-
licity, right?

Nothing I write here is go-
ing to affect the outcome. Jerry
is the biggest shoo-in since
Secretariat. But please, let's
have some debate before we let
him take such a big gamble
with Oakland's future.

As long as I'm casting stones,
here are three for yours truly.

First, I was wrong when I
said that UC-Berkeley history
professor Reggie Zelnik served
on the Free Speech Movement
steering committee in 1964.
The steering committee was for
undergraduates only, and Zelnik
was already a faculty member
— albeit one who strongly
supported the student protest.

But this gives me another
excuse to plug a very worth-
while project in Russia that he
and his fellow historians in
America are supporting: NITs
Memorial, an effort by Russian
historians to unearth the truth
of what really went on in the
Soviet Gulag. (In Russian,
"NITs" is an acronym "for Re-
search and Information Cen-
ter.")

There's no political ax being
ground here, no revisionist at-
tempt to rewrite the history of
the Cold War. Their only
agenda — both as historians
and human beings — is to tell
the truth, no matter where the

chips fall. Their only mandate
is Santayana's maxim: "Those
who forget the past are
doomed to repeat it."

These brave souls are doing
this on a shoestring budget,
working out of a tiny apart-
ment in St. Petersburg.
Whether you're a liberal or a
conservative, they deserve your
support. If you're interested in
making a contribution, or sim-
ply in learning more about
what they do, you can visit the
NITs Memorial web site at
www.memorial-inc.ru.

Meanwhile, Oakland's Perry
Bales spotted my error in say-
ing that the late, great Adm.
J.J. "Jocko" Clark was the skip-
per of the aircraft carrier
U.S.S. Hornet during World
War II. Actually, he com-
manded the whole naval
flotilla, and the Hornet was his
flagship.

So, technically speaking he
wasn't the skipper. He was the



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

commodore — or, as the crew
called him, "The Old Man."

I was also wrong about the
date of the Berkeley Mozart
Ensemble's concert aboard the
Hornet. It's actually next Fri-
day at 8 p.m. Don't miss it.

Finally, several sharp-eyed
readers gave me an F in econ-
omics after I wrote that Gre-
sham's Law says, "Good money
drives out bad." In fact, Gre-
sham said just the opposite:
Bad money drives out good.

"What's the matter, Martin?"
asks Dave Bruno of El Cerrito.
"Are you dyslexic?"

No, Dave. Just stupid.

E-mail Martin Snapp at cat-
man@california.com or call
him at 510-273-9039.

to Judge Richard Arnason touching and funny

ON OCCASION was a
debate to Judge Richard
Arnason, and well-de-
served. This 80-year-old
has been sitting on the
bench being appointed by
Governor Pat Brown in
1965, one of the most re-
spected and admired
of the Bay Area. Al-
though he retired at 65,
he continued to sit con-
sistently, and has no
wings.

As a gala company that
banquet room at the
Park Hotel. Many of
amazed to learn that
Arnason had been
in his early days in
Alameda, because his fa-
mily had the name of
Some of his family and
he still call him Earl.
Judge Coleman
once, the program
touching and full of
humor. Many of the speak-
ers surprised to the

Apparently delightful
he included his
and retired judge Bob
who sat on the bench
for many years.
of the important trials
presided over
by Angela Davis.
with conspiracy in the
nation and shooting at
Marin County, Davis
was lighter for the
he believed in, and a
fighter for those biased
Alban-Americans, or
even that Communists
are evil.

The trial venue was
and an unbiased
another jurisdiction
the person they
to hear the case was
judge" — as he calls
from Contra Costa,
Arnason.
The atmosphere in Arna-
son, agreed speakers
that, made it possi-
blest, unbiased jury
Angela Davis not guilty.
presence, and insistence

There were two women
from Friends Outside, one
of whom was executive director
Mary Ann Van Buren. This or-
ganization, a crime preven-
tion/crisis intervention agency,
among other things, offers the
correct clothing for a former



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

on civility and legal discretion
kept the proceedings dignified
and factual. Those who had been
there still expressed their feelings
of great admiration for Judge Arna-
son's handling of that very diffi-
cult trial.

Another story that was told
during the evening deserves to be
told. One lawyer recalled, at the
end of a rather acrimonious
trial, how Arnason, after he had
pronounced judgment, arose and
advanced to the low fence that
separates the principals from the
audience and addressed the fam-
ilies. He told them that the trial
was over and justice had been
done. Then he advised them to
go out into the hall, talk about it,
then shake hands and go on with
their lives. It was something few
judges would do.

Unfortunately, Joyce Arna-
son, the judge's wife, was un-
able to attend because she was
still getting around with great
difficulty after a fall which she
broke her foot and leg.

But the Arnason children
were there, quietly proud of
their dad and pleased with this
tribute to him. In the audience,
judges and retired judges
abounded, as did lawyers, plus
legislators, legal staffs and
state Bar employees.

But I also found an interest-
ing group of people connected
with the courts in an oblique
way.

There were two women
from Friends Outside, one
of whom was executive director
Mary Ann Van Buren. This or-
ganization, a crime preven-
tion/crisis intervention agency,
among other things, offers the
correct clothing for a former

prisoner who is going for a job
interview.

I remember that my son,
Josh, sent one of his clients
there for just such an outfit,
and he was so impressed with
their treatment of her that we
all got together the best outfits
we could find in our closets to
donate to the Friends Outside.

Another couple were nurses
who, in addition to their nurs-
ing duties, act as legal nurse
consultants to lawyers and the
courts. This connection be-
tween the legal profession and
the nurses had never occurred
to me before.

Because my son and I were
there, both Judges Arnason and
Cooney told stories that in-
cluded my late husband, Joseph
Genser, who was also a Super-
ior Court Judge and sat on the
bench at the same time, until his
untimely death. I was touched
by their thoughtfulness.

The tribute to Judge Arna-
son was co-sponsored by the
Contra Costa County Bar Asso-
ciation, Public Defenders' Of-
fice and the District Attorneys'
Office, with an imposing list of
patrons, sponsors and contribu-
tors. And they did well. They
did very well.

Again, please give me your sug-
gestions of interesting people,
events, organizations, etc.
Please write to me at 555
Pierce St., #443, Albany, CA
94706, or call 525-4585. My e-
mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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New director seeks to develop ideas on growth

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Whether it's bringing more businesses to town or beautifying the streets, city officials are looking for ideas that will alleviate the economic and aesthetic blight along San Pablo Avenue.

The city is starting to create a five-year plan to redevelop much of San Pablo as well as areas around the El Cerrito Plaza and Del Norte BART stations. Lori Treviño, the city's new economic development/redevelopment manager, will be putting together the plan.

"That'll be a big part of the job, I think — to help El Cerrito plan redevelopment programs," said Treviño, getting comfortable in her office just five hours into her new job.

Treviño is filling a position that was vacant for two years, after the previous manager left and the redevelopment agency was put on hiatus while it repaid the city's general fund for years of city staff time it used.

Treviño said she will be working closely with the Chamber of Commerce and the city's Economic Development Advisory Board — a board comprised of residents and business owners that gives financial advice to the City Council — and suggest ways to improve the area to attract and retain more businesses. Suggestions could be as simple as storefront improvements along San Pablo Avenue.

"A lot of it is just building relationships between businesses and the city," she said.

For her other duties, she must coordinate the creation of a plan that will outline what redevelopment projects the city will want to work on in the next five years. The Redevelopment Agency has given money to El Cerrito

Honda and Best Inns, for such routine planning procedures as water-quality tests. Over the next several months, Treviño will plan public meetings to get input on future redevelopment projects.

Restoring the vintage Cerrito Theater would be among the projects worth spending money on, she said. "I was pretty amazed it was there," said Treviño, after investigating the theater. "I think it would be a unique opportunity for the city."

The redevelopment agency, comprised of the City Council members, has a \$1.37 million budget in tax increment for redevelopment projects. By law, redevelopment agencies are required to adopt a plan and update it every five years, though the plans are indefinite to give the city breathing room in the face of economic or other changes in the city.

"The theater is something really special that the community might want to see, but I doubt there'll be anything else that specific," Treviño said.

Treviño moved to El Cerrito in 1999, to be closer to BART and her husband's job at UC Berkeley, and likes small towns, having grown up in small communities in Ohio and California. She earned bachelor's degrees in history and communications from UC Berkeley in 1996 but decided soon after she wanted to pursue public planning.

She earned a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and went to work for two planning firms, doing economic impact studies, redevelopment plans and housing strategies.

She became a member of the city's Economic Development Advisory Board in September, wanting to make a contribution to the community and in her new



STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

LORI TREVIÑO is El Cerrito's new economic development director, filling a post that has been vacant for the past two years.

role she is now the assigned staff person to that group.

"I'm thrilled that we got someone of her caliber to start working in the city," said Jill Keimach, community development director. "She not only has expertise and experience and education to do a great job in El Cerrito but she's also an El Cerrito resident, so I know that she also she's going to work beyond giving us her expertise. She has a personal interest in making sure El Cerrito is a good place to

live and work."

Treviño said she will set up dates within the next few months for residents to give their input on redevelopment ideas.

She said she likes El Cerrito because of its small town ambience and close location to the Bay Area's many amenities and hopes people will come out with ideas for redevelopment.

"My hope is that people would come up with ideas in public meetings for things they'd like to see," she said.

lar rent to Pakzad aren't feasible for the family-owned theater group.

The city's redevelopment agency is scheduled to discuss the issue at its Monday meeting. City staff will ask the City Council, which acts as the agency, to lease the Cerrito building for three months so options can be explored, essentially taking it off the market, said City Manager Scott Hanin.

Additional engineering analysis needs to be done to get a sense of what a restoration would cost, he said.

City staff is considering a range of options for the theater, Hanin said, from buying it, to forging a new deal with the Pak-

way owners, to working with other theater companies.

It will ultimately be up to the council to give direction, he said.

Pakzad said he's had several recent nibbles from people interested in renting the theater space, from a mattress company to a chain pet food business.

But he's willing to lease the building to the city for a few months and/or to sell it to them, he said. "I'm open. I'm all for preserving something the community wants."

Reach Kate Darby Rauch at 510-262-2749 or e-mail krauch@cctimes.com.

Editor departing at 15 years at weeklies

By Catherine D. Jacobson
STAFF WRITER

Dick Sparrer, longtime editor for the Contra Costa Newspapers weeklies, who has put 400,000 miles on his car over the years making the trek from San Jose to Concord, is leaving his position to take a job closer to home.

"It's very difficult for me to leave the people at the Contra Costa Newspapers that I've grown so fond of, especially those at the weeklies," said Sparrer.

Sparrer will be editor at two publications of Silicon Valley Community Newspapers: the Los Gatos Weekly-Times and the Saratoga News. The change will mean a commute measured in minutes, rather than hours, from his home in San Jose.

"I had the opportunity to go to work for a newspaper group closer to my home, and I felt that it was the right time to make the move," he said.

Sparrer joined Leshar Communications, which owned the Contra Costa Times and its sister papers, in 1987 as editor of the Concord Transcript when the paper, after a five-year absence from circulation, began publication again as a community weekly.

During his tenure, he shepherded the growth of the Transcript, as well as the development of the Weekly Journal, Pleasanton Record, and the Times.

In 1991, he was named by the company when he was named of its Employee Award.

Sparrer was the Contra Costa Times' Lamorinda, and the Hills Newspapers' Albany, Berkeley, Kensington, the Piedmont.

"Dick is a dedicated person who believes in the power of the community news and said John Armstrong, the Contra Costa Times' executive vice president, because of his leadership.

"I've grown very close to the communities I've served," said Sparrer, "and everyone who has known me for all of these years will miss all of you."

Today is Sparrer's last day with Contra Costa

Budget

FROM PAGE A1

riculum specialists and support personnel.

Elective courses, such as advanced art, introduction to Rock 'n' Roll and weight training, will be eliminated or offered for fewer class periods in high school.

In addition, the school district is "tightening" its primary grade classrooms to make sure every seat in every class is filled. This move could mean some families won't get the school of their choice and may end up with children at different elementary schools, Farrell said.

"It's going to be very hard,"

Farrell said. "People much about these things."

Some much about these things, namely music, and balance. Though he's trying to maintain the program, Farrell said, significant cuts are necessary.

"It's tragic that this is happening again," said Hart, president of the Teachers' Association, which has taught in Albany and was nearly bankrupt in 1980s.

"The people that are for this crisis are the teachers,"

Reach Kate Darby Rauch at 510-262-2749 or krauch@cctimes.com.

Cerrito

FROM PAGE A1

tain that was located next door.

The Cerrito's original frescos are still intact, colorful murals of Greek gods and dancing maidens, as are some of the original ornate etched glass windows and mirrors.

It closed in the late 1950s, becoming part of Keifer's furniture.

Keifer's was sold last year and the new owner, Fara Pakzad, is renovating the half-block of buildings with the goal of renting upscale retail space.

He had never intended to preserve the Cerrito, but was urged by city officials to hold off on other plans until restoration pos-

sibilities could be explored.

A deal looked close between the city, Pakzad, and the owners of Oakland's popular Parkway Theater, a dinner and movie house, who wanted to open a similar business at the Cerrito.

But Pakzad pulled out a couple of weeks ago, saying the money simply isn't there. "We'd said at the outset we couldn't afford to do it all," said Kyle Fischer, who owns the Parkway with his wife Katherine.

The city was considering loaning the Fischers money to restore the Cerrito — a project estimated to cost as much as \$1 million.

But Fischer said the dollars and cents of paying back the loan, along with paying top dol-

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Real Estate & Home

Friday, March 1, 2002

Section B

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B9]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B12]



BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED, this 1914 Craftsman-style home at 4449 Pleasant Valley Court maintains its historic character while offering the conveniences of a modern lifestyle.

Charming home in historic Oakland neighborhood

BETTER HOMES REALTY
Oakland's Pleasant Valley is a truly unique street. Nestled into a quiet, peaceful corner between Piedmont Avenue and Mountain View Avenue, this attractive cul-de-sac maintains its original tranquil atmosphere of an early 1900s suburban neighborhood. Now a

beautifully remodeled 1914 Craftsman home at 4449 Pleasant Valley Court is on the market, a house which maintains its historic character while offering the conveniences of a modern lifestyle. The home's location is ideal for enjoying the special amenities of nearby Piedmont Avenue. The street's charming shops and de-

lightful restaurants are only a five-minute walk away. Another attractive aspect of the home's location is proximity to Mountain View Cemetery. At the end of the block is a stair-stepped pathway leading directly

See HOME, Page B2

Rich, elegant, Craftsman-style gem



LOCATED IN THE OAKLAND'S GRAND LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD, this 1921 sun-drenched, polished Craftsman-style gem is rich in architectural detail. This spacious home provides an oasis for elegant and comfortable living. The formal living room and wood-paneled dining room, below left, provide an atmosphere for gracious entertaining. The updated eat-in kitchen with custom cabinetry and marble counters evokes quality and craftsmanship. Three-plus bedrooms and one bathroom grace the upper level. The lush tropical front garden and park-like rear yard provide ample outdoor space for enjoying the warmth of the East Bay. The home will be open this Sunday from 2 to 5 pm. Contact Jeffrey Himmel at Pacific Union 510-339-6460 ext. 1307.



COLDWELL BANKER



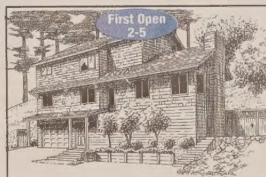
OPEN SKYLINE, LUCREST
WINTER SBR/6BA \$1,975,000
Unique! Stunning! This 1991 contemporary, at the end of a road, was designed and built to take advantage of the expansive greater Bay Area. Flooded with natural light, this 5 room, 6 bath home was created with elegance in mind. The integration of the indoor pool complete with a waterfall, built-in barbeque center and lawn create an inviting setting for enjoying outdoors and the mesmerizing view of the Bay. CRS 510-339-4700



BERKELEY
25-25 ALCATRAZ \$699,000
Stunning Queen Anne on a tree-lined street, view of the Bay & Mt. Tam. Three bedrooms, owner's unit remodeled, newer kitchen & roof, large back yard. Open house 3/1/02. 510.339.4700



1004 CRAGMONT, BERKELEY \$699,000
Med charmer in N. Berk Hills. Great views of GG, SF & Bay. Good floor plan. Open LR & Sep DR. Rem Kit/Fam + Rem/Tiled Baths. Cheryl Cahn 510-486-1495



6676 HEARTWOOD DR. \$529,000
Pristine 8-year-old Montclair Contemporary. 4BR/2.5BA, formal dining, eat-in kitchen, light & open, level yard. Open Sunday. Judy Rankankan-Ackerman 510.339.4700



1526 FAIRVIEW, BERKELEY \$465,000
Charming Victorian duplex on fantastic large lot! Entire bldg remodeled w/style & fully upgraded. Sunny 2+BR/2BA owner's unit w/open floor plan. Nancy Reichert 510-486-1495



860 42nd St. EMERYVILLE \$289,000
Wonderful 2BR/1BA home close to Berkeley. Hdwd flrs, great fin. Bsmt. Big rear yard. 510-486-1495

FIRST OPEN		BY APPOINTMENT	
583 CHETWOOD ST. Sunday 2-5. Grand Avenue 4-plex w/comfortable 3BR/2BA owner's unit, 3-car attached garage & Jack Breneman.....	\$725,000 510.339.4700	MONTCLAIR 4BR/3BA. Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage. Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen.....	\$675,000 510.339.4700
492 STATEN #1103 Sunday 2-5. Lake Merritt Luxury. Lakeview condo in prestige building; hardwood floors, fireplace, formal dining room, new recessed lighting, old world charm Lydia Nayo.....	\$589,000 510.339.4700	LINCOLN HEIGHTS 3BR/2BA. Fully updated, move-in condition, minutes to Montclair; private & fabulous. Victor Ratto.....	\$425,000 510.339.4700
4100 MALCOLM Sunday 1-5. Views of the Bay. All level living w/ private, lush yard complete w/pond. New gourmet kitchen, large living room w/FP & wood floors. Close to parklands. Donna Conroy.....	\$525,000 510.339.4700	BERKELEY Classic Craftsman, 2+BR/1BA, formal dining room, EIK has been updated & opens to spectacular vd. Claudia Bowman.....	\$419,000
2939 MILLSBRAE AVE., MAXWELL PARK Sunday 1-4:30. 2+BR/1BA, formal living room w/FP, formal dining, hardwood floors, built-in cabinets, eat-in kitchen, lots of light. Phyllis Wherry.....	\$329,000 510.339.4700	FRUITVALE 4-PLEX Four 1BR/1BA units, good size units, solid building. Victor Ratto.....	\$400,000 510.339.4700
471 SUPERIOR, SAN LEANDRO Sunday 1-4:30. English Tudor w/loads of charm awaiting renewal. 3+BR/1BA, plus rooms upstairs used as artist's studio, HWF, FP, front and back yard. Victor Ratto.....	\$328,000 510.339.4700	FRUITVALE 4-PLEX Four 1BR/1BA units - good solid building; 1 unit recently remodeled. Victor Ratto.....	510.339.4700
2900-2902 GEORGIA Sunday 2-4:30. Lower Laurel Duplex. Cute, cozy duplex. One 2BR/1BA, one 1BR/1BA, clean & neat. Reva Tolbert.....	\$284,950 510.339.4700	ROCKRIDGE-AREA Spacious, gracious 2BR/1BA w/in-law or use as 3BR/2BA; FP, garage, basement, formal dining, great space! Great potential-cosmetic fixer. Don Coelho.....	\$385,000 510.339.4700
666 OAKLAND AVE. #205 Sunday 2-5. Piedmont Ave. Area. Updated 1BR/1BA corner unit condo. Functional floor plan, good-sized rooms, formal entry, dining area, balcony. Elena Stone.....	\$205,000 510.339.4700	OAKLAND 4BR/2BA. Large back yard, "fixer/as is". Don't miss it! Mahnaz Judson.....	\$315,000 510.339.4700
6845 OAKWOOD DRIVE, MONTCLAIR Sunday 2-5. Quality, spacious & elegant! 3BR/2.5BA stunning home ideally located close to freeways & Montclair shops. Terry Kulka.....	\$885,000 510.339.4700	RICHMOND Good starter home. 2BR/1BA. Newer paint in & out, updated ba, newer roof, 5K lot! Commute con. Josh Whitmer.....	\$240,000 510-486-149
5150 REDWOOD ROAD, OAKLAND HILLS Sunday 1-5. Stunning 3BR/2BA Contemporary w/sweeping Bay view & gorgeous level yard, on a private drive. Stone fireplace + 2-car garage. Nader Davari.....	\$619,000 510.339.4700	LOTS 0 EVERGREEN, CLAREMONT Views facing SF Bay, large level area at bottom of lot. David Eckert.....	\$695,000 510.339.4700
308 FLORENCE AVE., UPPER ROCKRIDGE Sunday 2-5. English charm, 2+BR/1BA with updated eat-in kitchen and newer bath; Bay view from upstairs; separate office & rumpus room, hardwood floors. Michael Thompson.....	\$549,000 510.339.4700	13514 CAMPUS DR. Design review approved plans. Engineering complete. Beautiful canyon views. Fairly level lot. David Eckert.....	\$395,000 510.339.4700

OPEN SUNDAY		BUYER NEEDS	
6845 OAKWOOD DRIVE, MONTCLAIR Sunday 2-5. Quality, spacious & elegant! 3BR/2.5BA stunning home ideally located close to freeways & Montclair shops. Terry Kulka.....	\$885,000 510.339.4700	Preferably in Berkeley Hills & Thousand Oaks area. 4BR/2BA home up to \$1,200,000. Please call Kim & Barbara Marienthal, 510-981-3036.	
5150 REDWOOD ROAD, OAKLAND HILLS Sunday 1-5. Stunning 3BR/2BA Contemporary w/sweeping Bay view & gorgeous level yard, on a private drive. Stone fireplace + 2-car garage. Nader Davari.....	\$619,000 510.339.4700	Light-filled contemporary in Berkeley. 3BR/2BA plus garden. Up to \$1,000,000. Please call Nadine Dei, 510-981-3033.	
308 FLORENCE AVE., UPPER ROCKRIDGE Sunday 2-5. English charm, 2+BR/1BA with updated eat-in kitchen and newer bath; Bay view from upstairs; separate office & rumpus room, hardwood floors. Michael Thompson.....	\$549,000 510.339.4700	Berkeley/Oakland Hills. 3BR, 2BA traditional up to \$999,999. Please call Alice Wong-Roth, 510-981-3032.	
666 OAKLAND AVE. #205 Sunday 2-5. Piedmont Ave. Area. Updated 1BR/1BA corner unit condo. Functional floor plan, good-sized rooms, formal entry, dining area, balcony. Elena Stone.....	\$205,000 510.339.4700	Gourmet Ghetto of Berkeley. Single family, 3+BR, 1+BA, garden 4 kids, up to \$800,000. Please call Maura Allen, 510-981-3034.	
6137 LaSalle Avenue Oakland 510.339.4700		Elmwood/Le Conte School. 3+BR/2BA, sunny yard, fixer O.K. Up to \$700,000. Please call Sarah Shankman, 510-981-3011.	
1495 Shattuck Avenue Berkeley 510.486.1495		Rockridge or N. Berkeley. 2BR or more craftsman or classic bungalow up to \$500,000. Please call Bobbie Giarratana, 510-540-9494.	

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Home

FROM PAGE B1

into the grounds of this historic, park-like necropolis.

The grounds of the cemetery are beautifully landscaped with flower beds, mature trees, duck ponds, and gentle footpaths. Visitors are welcome to walk along the roads and trails that crisscross the grounds of this magnificently adorned historic site.

Mourntain View Cemetery is one of the oldest and largest cemeteries in Northern California, spreading across 200 acres. It was founded in 1863, and the original landscape design was executed by the renowned Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed New York City's Central Park.

The impressive array of funerary monuments run the gamut of styles popular in Victorian America, from Egyptian obelisks and pyramids, to Greek temples, to Gothic spires and weeping angels. Some of the East Bay's most prominent pioneers are buried here, including Charles Crocker, Dr. Samuel Merritt, Governor George Pardee, Henry Durant, Joseph Le Conte, Francis Shattuck, Borax Smith, and Josiah Stanford.

The home is a classic example of a Craftsman style home. This style of architecture came from the Arts-and-Crafts Movement of England in the late 1800s, and emphasized the beauty of natural materials and hand craftsmanship instead of the mass-produced, machine-made decoration of the more ornate Victorian styles.

The exterior of this house is covered with brown shingles, a popular material for Craftsman homes. The gables have wide barge boards and exposed rafters tails under the eaves.

The chimney is made of weathered klinker brick, and there are banded casement windows set into the front wall. There is a wrap-around, recessed front porch with stout Craftsman style columns. The front door is made of thick oak, and there is an Arts-and-Crafts style hanging light fixture above it.

Inside, 4449 Pleasant Valley Court retains many of its original historic features, while having been tastefully upgraded and enlarged. The living room is long, with its original fireplace and built-in bookshelves.

The dining room has its original built-ins, and an old Art Nouveau style ceiling lamp.

The front bedroom looks out at the side yard, with a lovely view of a Japanese maple tree. The master bedroom in back looks out at the rear patio, with bamboo, fruit trees, and a high fence that provide maximum privacy. These rooms all have their original oak hardwood floors, with geometric in-lay patterns.

The bathroom is situated between the bedrooms, and a skylight above the shower and bathtub which provides good ventilation for the whole house. The kitchen adjoins the dining room, and it was updated by a previous owner and now has good light.

The current owners added a breakfast room behind the kitchen in 1997, which has a wide, curved bay window that looks out over the rear patio and gets the morning sun.

There is access to the partial basement from the breakfast room, and it has a laundry area and built-in storage. The foundation of the house has been entirely earthquake retrofitted.

Next to the house, in the side yard, the current owners have converted the old garage into a guest cottage and home office. This charming space, approximately 350 square feet, has a kitchenette with glass-fronted cabinets, a full bath, skylights, storage shelves, a built-in entertainment center, and hardwood floors.

It also has a DSL high speed Internet connection, full insulation, its own heater, and high ceilings with open beams. There is parking for three cars in the driveway, with two spaces behind a gate in the front fence.

The total square footage of the original house is 1,427, according to the Alameda County tax records. There are six rooms in the house, with one full bath and two bedrooms, not including the one in the guest cottage.

The total square footage of the lot is 5,360, making it more spacious than the average residential lot from the early 1900s.

The house at 4449 Pleasant Valley Court is being offered for sale for \$525,000. It will be held open this Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. The listing agent is Nahid Nassiri, of the Montclair Better Homes Realty office at 1986 Mountain Boulevard in Oakland.

She can be reached at her office, at 510-339-8400, or by voice mail at 510-287-5770, or via e-mail at nahid@nahidnassiri.com.



RED OAK REALTY

REPRESENTATIVES OF AREA NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS gathered at the moment together at the Awards Night. Red Oak Realty hosted the evening at the Berkeley Association of Realtors. The Red Oak Opportunity Foundation awarded \$36,000 to the recipients.

Meeting the community's needs

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

Real estate professionals as a group have always been sensitive to the needs of their community. Overall, the motto of this industry is "give back".

The real estate industry believes in supporting the needs of the area, where one lives and does business.

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their efforts and the efforts of their agents would be more effective, if everyone pooled their resources.

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Oak Opportunity Foundation (ROOF) was the answer. ROOF is a non-profit, charitable organization.

In the early years, ROOF was funded by voluntary contributions from agents' commissions. The Red Oak owners matched these monies annually.

The first year's effort was \$6,000. Fund-raising efforts have grown steadily from then.

Contributions have been accepted in recent years from Oak's clients and other Realtors. A matching grant from an anonymous donor was received the last four years. ROOF has raised over \$100,000 for the creation of a million dollars in grants.

Red Oak Realty awards donations to housing programs, educational programs, and other community projects.

See AWARDS, Page B2

Open Sunday 2-4
2603 Mira Vista • El Cerrito

\$469,000

This quality four+ bedroom, 3 bath view home offers a flexible floor plan. The large in-law unit can be used as fifth bedroom and a den. The second kitchen is great for parties. Lovely hardwood floors, formal dining room and Bay views are special features of this fine home.

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OAKLAND

EMERYVILLE

4256 SUTER ST. PRICE REDUCED ON THIS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED. 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath, approximately 1201 square feet. Large living & dining room, fireplace, laundry area. Long driveway, tool sheds. \$278,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4:30 5540 BEAUDRY ST. BRAND NEW CONDOS. Units A & B, each with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and laundry. Lower unit \$255,000, upper unit \$260,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

HERCULES

1362 E. 27th. NEW CHINATOWN AREA. 5 units plus 3 bedroom home on large lot. Needs TLC. \$825,000. Mary Ann Herber, 510-568-2040.

OPEN SATURDAY, 1-4:30 - 15 MOONSTONE CT. LOCATION! LOCATION! Conveniently located bright 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhome. Large corner lot, 2 car garage. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

TRACY

PANORAMIC WAY. 2 LOTS. These lots are located side by side in a beautiful wooded area with a great view of the San Francisco Bay Area. Priced at \$45,000. Kathy Ghiselli, 510-522-6425.

420 W. BEVERLY PLACE. ADORABLE HOME. Must see home with 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room with wood burning stove, updated kitchen with hardwood floors. New roof and super sized garage. Kathy Ghiselli, 510-522-6425.

RICHMOND

SAN FRANCISCO

OPEN SUNDAY 1-5 77 SAND POINT DR. New listing at Sunset Pointe. Just steps from Bay. Wonderful 4 year new home with upgrades, 2+ bedrooms, 2+ baths. \$479,000. Michael Studebaker, 877-865-2279.

OPEN SUNDAY, 1-4 - 300 CHANNEL ST. FLOAT HOME. Mission Bay area, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, laundry. Wonderful views, walk to PacBell Park \$499,000 + monthly berth rent. David McIntyre, 510-748-1111.

We speak Mandarin, Cantonese and English

Moon Tam 747-1620

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Real Estate & Home

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

BERKELEY VOICE / THE JOURNAL / MONTCLAIR JOURNAL
PIEDMONT / ALAMEDA JOURNAL

Dreaming about making houses dream houses

over 390 in a series of true estate in real estate. In the days, also the first that morning, are about houses we will soon be married. I am obsessing over what I'd be done to prep now far to go, how much sense to spend, who does the work, how long the house will take.

These houses were built in the 1960s, not my era. Architectural era certainly, happens that my own house was built at the same time, and during 10 years I've lived in my house, I've thought a lot about it.

As my best to change my house, I'm detailing, to add visual appeal, and I'm glad that I did. I have an argument could be made that these houses as the one who built them intended, but my house nor the one I dream about are classics built by Eichler have become. I have read that a near-out demand for Eichler houses for those that are still

at Cerrito house I'm lately hearing on seems still to contain its original elements, although many of them are now quite the wood paneling and high ceiling in the living room are gone.

wards
PAGE B2

Public service organizations communities served. Recipients awarded funding based on service to the community, conformity to the ROOF statement.

The distribution of funds is determined by a committee chosen by the ROOF Board of Directors. Membership includes appointed agents and Red Oak members.

Red Oak Realty recently hosted a reception at the Berkeley Association of Realtors. The group honored nineteen non-profit organizations for their dedication and work in the community. Monetary awards, for the 2001 year totaled \$36,000. In all, donations raised \$38,000, but it was set aside to cover any future needs that may arise in 2002.

Arts Night was added to the opportunity for the non-profit network," commented Campbell, Red Oak Realty. "By meeting the other realtors, bonds are formed and we are able to find ways to support one another."

The galley kitchen with its blond wood cabinets still contains built-in double ovens, cooktop and dishwasher, all dark brown metal, the "in" color at the time of construction.

The owner did add wallpaper in many rooms, wallpaper that she and Anet and I agree should be removed. The vinyl flooring in the kitchen and adjacent family room and in the main bath, a sort of fleur-de-lis pattern, is still there, but its formerly shiny surface is dull and cracked.

The wood floors are also worn and stained, and the owner says she'd like to see them refinished. She feels that this, at least, should be done. And so we start there.

We got a bid for repairing, sanding and coating the wood floors, and the bid is quite reasonable. While we were at it, we asked what the cost would be to replace the vinyl in the kitchen and family room with hardwood.

This last is too much to spend, we think, almost \$5,000 by the time the old vinyl is removed and the baseboards are dealt with.

And so, we investigate linoleum, not vinyl, but the new, real linoleum which comes in both sheet goods and tiles and in beautiful retro patterns and colors. The lino man hasn't gone to the house to measure yet, but it looks like gorgeous linoleum can be had for around \$2,000.

We met our painter at the house a few days ago and walked through talking about what might be done.

Much of the wallpaper is loose and must be stripped. We are reluctant to paint the blond kitchen cabinetry, but restoring the surfaces would be a huge job and, we think, not cost effective. (Eichler-like followers will be disappointed, I know.)

We think that the cabinets should be painted, inside and out. While the living room ceiling is in excellent shape, the wall paneling is badly faded in spots, a fact we discovered when our painter took down some of the artwork which has been hanging there for some 40 years.

We think the paneling must be painted as well, but the wood fireplace mantel and adjacent bookcases can be cleaned and left bare. In my nightly musings, I can imagine how very good the house will look with newly redone surfaces, but I get stuck on other details.

There is some gardening to be done, mostly tree pruning. Also cleaning of appliances, showers, window glass and the metal window frames.

At least one new light fixture will be needed and, to show this house to best advantage, some professional staging. I really enjoy thinking about what the stager will bring into the house.

The owner has some marvelous things of her own which we would love to use but, unfortunately, they will already be in the owner's new residence by the time we would need them. I spent an hour on the Internet searching for 40 handles

and pulls for kitchen and dining room cupboards. The ones there now are not in good shape, and they'll look bad when everything around them looks new. It may seem an easy task to replace handles but, I've found, it never is.

This is because whatever is currently on the cabinets, that size isn't made anymore.

The screws for these particular handles are on three-and-a-quarter inch centers. All of the handles I've been able to locate are, of course, different. We will probably have to plug the old holes and bore new ones, and this will cost something.

What about the brown appliances? As long as I'm dreaming, I might as well consider replacing them.

One of the ovens no longer works, one cooktop burner is broken, the dishwasher is old, and the color looks dated.

Often we tell sellers, because we believe it is true, that an outdated kitchen or bath, if light, clean and workable, will be seen by buyers as something they can live with now, that they'll plan to fix it themselves later. And that may well be the truth here.

Still, we are curious, and therefore we are exploring the costs and ease of replacing some or all of the built in appliances. We do not know

yet, for example, if new ovens are readily available that are the same size as the existing ones.

Another question concerns the cooktop, which is electric. Most houses built around the time that this one was had electric appliances. But buyers in our area almost all prefer gas, so if the seller did go ahead and put in a new cooktop, should it be gas?

While both types of cooktops seem to cost about the same, what would a plumber charge to run a gas line?

Before any decisions are made about preparing a house for sale, there are many considerations.

Some sellers have the time and money to make upgrades, but many do not. It is often the case



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that improvements do pay for themselves, and beyond, but not always.

We're still working on gathering information and using our experience and imagination. We want to make good solid recommendations to our client.

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching.

They can be reached by e-mail at patanet@ml.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.

Glenview Bungalow



3839 Randolph Street
\$499,000

Spacious Craftsman bungalow with hardwood floors, box beam ceilings, built-in with leaded glass. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with large kitchen & deck to great yard.



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THORNWALL
Properties

Read Tarpo & Talbert every Friday in Hills Newspapers

The agents and owners of Red Oak Realty continue to contribute to ROOF. Their motto remains "to give back."

If your organization would like to be considered for a ROOF award or if you would like to

make a contribution, contact Peter Campbell at 510-280-2134.

Bobbie Reid is a freelance writer and columnist. She is a California real estate licensee and active as an affiliate in the industry.

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



958 Park Lane, Crocker Highlands
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A Must See! Dramatic living room, vaulted ceilings, French doors open to patio, random plank floors. Character abounds in this vintage home. 4+BR/2.5BA, level out to garden.
Offered at \$699,000

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Montclair Better Homes Realty

Sunday Open House • March 3 • 2-4:30pm
NEW LISTING!

An older homes historic character with convenient & elegant updates, cozily tucked away on a quiet street just a stones throw from Piedmont Avenue shops and restaurants. You will find wonderful wood moldings, a large mantle surrounding the wood burning fireplace, a quiet window seat, incredible built-ins, & gleaming hardwood floors with an in-lay strip and 4 inch baseboards. In the side yard, next to the house is an adorable guest cottage with all of the amenities your guests will need!

• 2 bedroom, 1 bath
• Guest cottage w/kitchenette and full bath
Asking Price For This Stunning Home is \$525,000



Open March 3, 2002 2:00-4:30 pm

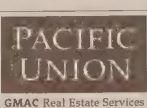
New Listing - North Berkeley Charmer!



Sunny, bright and covered with wisterias, this home has two bedrooms plus detached office. Classic details, hardwood and great location for today's life-style with yesterday's charm!

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6 Dormidera Avenue, Piedmont
Originally offered at \$1,475,000



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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Free Home Buyer Basics

Home Buyer Basics is a workshop for first-time homebuyers with a soup to nuts overview of all aspects of the home buying process. The class is conducted by Mortgage Broker, **Karen Ward** of RE Loan Mortgage and **Jim Parkhurst** of Prudential California Realty. Albany is the location and the date is Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no cost for the class, but reservations are a must. For reservations call the Workshop Hotline at 510-718-2134.

Green Remodeling Workshop

Planning on remodeling? Think GREEN! This free Green Remodeling Workshop will help homeowners learn to lower their utility bills and use healthier building materials. The workshop is Wednesday, March 13, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It will be held at the Builders Books/Source on Fourth Street in Berkeley. The facilitator is Architect **Nancy Malone** of Siegel & Strain Architects. Each attendee receives a copy of *Residential Green Building Guidelines*, on how to remodel home in an environmentally sound manner. The Resource-full Showcase will be available for participants to visit. The Showcase is a 28-foot trailer with product information for contractors and homeowners. The Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Recycling Board sponsors this event. For questions contact Public Affairs Director, Bruce Goddard at 510-614-1699.

Inform Meeting in Alameda

The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. The Inform is sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 12. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. This

month's speaker is **Bill Garvine** from Alameda Power & Telecom. He is speaking on the future of cable and the Internet. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact Remy Boyd of AAR at 510-523-7229.

"Our Houses" Lecture Series

The Alameda Museum presents the "Our Houses" lecture series for 2002. Prominent Bay Area authors and historians narrate the slide lectures. The museum is located on Alameda Avenue near Park Street in Alameda. The series "is scheduled through June. The March program is Thursday, March 28. Call 510-748-0796 for information.

Remodel! Renovate!

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. For information on classes and

costs call the center. Contact Sydney at 510-525-7610 or visit the web site at bldgeduct.org.

Homeownership Help

Down payment and closing cost assistance is offered through the City of Hayward to first-time homebuyers. "There are still affordable homes in Hayward," commented Home Ownership Coordinator Sam Thompson. Buyers are required to purchase in Hayward and attend a Homeownership Class. Classes are on a monthly basis, as long as funds are available. To find out more about classes and other requirements call 510-583-4244.

REALTOR.com

If you are interested in buying or selling real estate research reports confirm that REALTOR.com remains the number one web site choice of consumers. "REALTOR.com is the most useful place to visit for people with an interest in real estate," said National Association of Realtors President **Richard A. Mendenhall**. The site

receives support from hundreds of thousands of Realtors. Check it out at REALTOR.com.

PHOTO OP

Need a new photo? Still using your high school graduation photo? North American Tile wants to solve your problem on "Photo Opportunity Day", Wednesday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choose from different backdrops, black and white or color photos and hair and makeup help. Pose in business and casual attire. You will receive 24 photos with negatives, suitable for transfer to a CD. The photographer is **Craig Merrill** of Merrill Photographic. For reservations and cost information call **Ingrid Westgard** at 510-339-2380.

WANTED COMMERCIAL BROKERS


Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to at-

tend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by

See REID, Page B6

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312 ANDERSON RD.
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SAN LEANDRO
NEW LISTING
14413 SEAGATE DR.
2 Bdrm/1 bath, lovely unit at Marina Seagate. Price reduction! \$270,000. OPEN SUNDAY 2-4 PM

NEW LISTING
13851 SEAGATE DR.
2 Bdrm/1 bath, 1.5 car unit at Marina Seagate. \$295,000.

1400 CARPENTER ST. #116
2 Bdrm/2 bath, walk to BART + transp. \$249,000.


14248 OUTRIGGER DR.
3 BDRM/2 bath, 2 car garages. \$329,000. **SOLD**

14578 OUTRIGGER DR.
3 Bdrm/2 bath, 2 car garage at Marina Seagate. \$335,000.

2507 GALLEON PLACE
3 Bdrm/1 bath, 2 car garage. \$329,000.

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Glenview Charmer!

\$479,000

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6248 Swainland Road

Montclair

Spacious 9 year old contemporary with Tuscan Style Hill, San Francisco Bay, Golden Gate & Mt. Tam views from most rooms.

5 bedrooms/3.5 baths • Fabulous open living & dining room • Eat-in kitchen

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PENDING



37 Highland Blvd., Kensington

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1967 built contemporary style home enjoys magnificent views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Mt. Tamalpais, the Bay Bridge and glistening city lights. Japanese style landscaping, excellent home for entertaining. Price Reduced!

Deborah Matthews x134 \$649,000

EL CERRITO

OPEN SUN 2-4



652 Kearney, El Cerrito

This wonderful bungalow style home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, & attached garage offers the new comfortable home & great location access to I-80, BART, and El Cerrito schools. The added convenience of restaurants and the new El Cerrito make this property more inviting.

Deborah Matthews x134

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604 BLAIR AVENUE
Central Piedmont 4BR/3.5BA. Living room w/fireplace, formal dining room, sunny eat-in kitchen w/French doors to deck adjoining family room. Gorgeous city views.
\$1,295,000
Carolyn Jones

PIEDMONT - OPEN SUNDAY
2-4:30 P.M.



300 PACIFIC AVENUE
Sophisticated living in central Piedmont. Large, gracious living room opens to dining and rear patio. Bright and sunny 4BR/2+BA. Beautiful move-in condition.
\$795,000
Mindy Scott



768 SAN LUIS ROAD
This executive retreat is located in the prestigious Thousand Oaks! Designed by Carr Jones and sited on a spacious and private double lot with expansive Bay views.
\$1,850,000
Bebe McRae

BERKELEY - OPEN SUNDAY
2-4:30 P.M.



355 ARLINGTON AVENUE
Exceptionally large 3BR/2BA 2-story home! Grand piano size living room! Eat-in kitchen opening to garden! 1/2 block from all urban amenities - restaurants, shops, & SF transportation. Workshop! Chris Cohn
\$585,000

OAKLAND - OPEN SUNDAY
2-4:30 P.M.



6919 BRISTOL DRIVE
Outstanding contemporary with traditional designer touches. Three master suites, 5 bedrooms & four full baths total. Family room & fabulous kitchen. Debra Dryden
\$1,080,000

1834 LEIMERT BLVD.
This wonderful Mediterranean boasts exceptional details & spectacular views. 4BR/3.5BA including au pair quarters. Private sunny garden & yard. John Karnay
\$875,000



740 CALMAR AVENUE
A charming vintage home w/original woodwork & spacious sun-filled rooms, staircase in turret leads to 3BR upstairs. Large garden & deck. Faye Keogh
\$565,000



5033 PROCTOR AVENUE
Distinctive Spanish Mediterranean with sweeping SF & bridge views. 4BR/3.5BA. Misner tile floors, custom ironwork, beautiful archways. Sherry Benninger
\$995,000

958 PARK LANE
Dramatic living room, vaulted ceilings, French doors open to patio, random plank floors. Character abounds in this vintage home. 4+BR/2.5BA, level out to garden. Judith Cain
\$699,000



3652 HARBOR VIEW AVE.
Move right in to this cheerful Redwood Heights traditional. Lovingly maintained this adorable home exudes charm & warmth. 3BR/1BA. Debbi DiMaggio
\$389,000



1850 LEIMERT BLVD.
This country English storybook home features timeless design elements, handcrafted wood detailing & whimsical grounds. 4BR/3BA & library. Kathy Cooper
\$879,000

6125 ASPINWALL ROAD
Lovely wooded site w/exceptional privacy. 4BR/4BA. Open floor plan. Library, new kitchen, rumpus & home office. Includes adjacent vacant lot. Elizabeth Dickson
\$675,000



3721374 45TH STREET
Temescal duplex/Victorian flats. Investment opportunity. Income or owner could occupy. Needs work. 3BR/1BA up & 1BR/1BA down. Tricia Swift
\$315,000

309 4TH STREET
Unique contemporary live/work loft with private courtyard & fountain. 2BR/1BA. Fabulous top-of-the-line designer upgrades throughout. Ed Kuo
\$399,500

PIEDMONT
By Appointment



PIEDMONT ELEGANCE
Contemporary chic with a relaxed elegant environment are present in this spacious home! The gorgeous gardens embrace the poolside setting. Angela Wei Grubb
\$2,707,500



PIEDMONT OPPORTUNITY
Delightful home with 3BR/1BA, spacious eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, beautiful garden for sun and play. Great location, close to school & shops. Michelle Winchester
\$599,000

MEDITERRANEAN
Mediterranean showcase w/expansive gardens, European kitchen, sumptuous master retreat. The perfect place for a distinctive life-style of comfort & harmony. Sandra Vogel
\$1,935,000

VERY STYLISH HOME
Spacious, quality home in a unique private setting, 5BR/3BA, spacious kitchen, large rumpus and gorgeous level exterior decking. Sheila Gallagher
\$879,000

CHARMING ENGLISH
Charming 2BR/1.5BA home on a great street. Close to schools. Lovely front & rear garden complete w/picket fence. Eat-in kitchen. Josephine O'Shaughnessey
\$559,000

BERKELEY-By Appointment



BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN
COMING SOON. Park-like grounds with creek surround this stately 1930's home in the desirable Thousand Oaks neighborhood. 4 bedrooms plus au-pair! Views. Bebe McRae
\$1,750,000



BROWN SHINGLE
COMING SOON. Wonderful 3+BR/3BA brown shingle on a fabulous street. Large living room w/stone fireplace. Updated eat-in kitchen. Beautiful detail. Karen Starr
\$950,000

CLAREMONT
COMING SOON. Level living in prime Claremont neighborhood! 3BR/3BA, formal dining, private garden, 2-car garage/studio. Great location. Bebe McRae
\$795,000

NORTH BERKELEY
North Berkeley Compound! Main house w/4BR plus legal in-law unit and second lot w/garden cottage. Beautiful Bay views! Bebe McRae
\$1,250,000

BERKELEY HILLS
Located on one of Berkeley Hills finest streets, beautiful brown shingle w/Bay view & level yard. 5+BR/2 full BA, 2 half BA, separate studio/office. Ruth Frassetto
\$925,000

ELMWOOD CRAFTSMAN
Convenient central floorplan! 5+BR/2BA + studio with half bath! Private garden abounds with fruit trees. Off street parking. Susie Schevill
\$770,000

BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN
Very spacious home close to Solano Ave. 4BR/3BA incl. master suite. Updated kitchen/breakfast room, level out to garden. Guest suite/family room. Helene Barkin
\$649,000

OAKLAND -By Appointment



VIEW ESTATE
Watch the sunset from this phenomenal new Spanish with approx 6,500 sq. ft. Elevator. Front courtyard, terraces, level garden & the fine finishes. Debra J. Dryden
\$2,500,000



ROCKRIDGE
Rockridge home in excellent condition. 2BR/2BA w/ additional "plus" room w/closet for 3rd BR or office. Updated kitchen, level garden & garage. Kurt Buchholz
\$479,000



REDWOOD HEIGHTS
Charming Redwood Heights home w/sunny eat-in kitchen, spacious living room & cathedral ceiling. 2BR/1.5BA, family room & level garden. Nancy Lehrkind
\$399,000



CROCKER TRADITIONAL
Elegant Tudor w/gracious formal rooms, hardwood floors, great kitchen/family room, 3+BR and separate in-law unit. Michelle Winchester
\$929,000



ROCKRIDGE
Wonderful 2BR/1BA home. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room, updated kitchen with breakfast nook, hardwood floors & level garden. Kurt Buchholz
\$429,000



LAKE FRONT CONDO
Spacious 2BR/2BA w/ spacious enclosed balcony. Great stone fireplace. Rare lake front building w/views of park, Lake & city lights. Ed Kuo
\$285,000

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Reid

FROM PAGE B3

the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 12, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster Street. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

OAR PRESENTS

The Oakland Association of Realtors presents a half-day seminar to renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, Charlie Krackeler. The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday March 8. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

ROOF HONORS NON-PROFITS

Red Oak Realty on Solano Avenue in Berkeley does more than sell real estate. For over sixteen years, Red Oak agents have contributed to ROOF (Red Oak Opportunity Foundation). Red Oak Realty matches the agent's contributions.

Please read with
your children today.

The combined donations are awarded to non-profit organizations for their dedication and work in the community. This year nineteen organizations benefited from the \$36,000 raised by ROOF. Since its inception contributions have exceeded a quarter of million dollars. For more information on making a donation or requesting your organization be considered for an award contact Peter Campbell of Red Oak at 510-280-2134.

BAR ANNIVERSARY PINS

Did you know the Berkeley Association of Realtors is celebrating their 100th Anniversary? A commemorative pin was produced to celebrate the occasion. The pins have an American flag motif, with the words "Celebrating 100 Years" across the top and Berkeley Association of Realtors across the bottom. If you would like to purchase one, contact Don Clark at BAR by calling 510-848-4288.

WCR HORSE RACES

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter is co-sponsoring their annual "Day At The Races". The event is planned for Wednesday, March 20 at the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a buffet beginning at noon. Post Time for the first race is 12:45 p.m. with the last race at 4:30 p.m. WCR's "Day At The Races" is held

in conjunction with the San Francisco and Contra Costa Chapters. Reservations are a must. Contact Lee Jacobson of Pacific Union at 510-339-6460 x 309.

NEED LICENSE RENEWAL OR BROKERS

Duane Gomer Seminars offer classes for DRE license renewal

See REID, Page B8

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OPEN SUNDAY Mar 3

1:00 - 5:00 PM



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Retreat On The Hilltop

A beauty awaits you here! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, new kitchen and baths, secluded, lush backyard, home office and View!

Offered at \$525,000



Donna Conroy 510.339.4723

Tour at www.donnaconroy.com

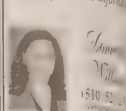
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EL CERRITO
1383 Summit Park Court \$1,380,000

Exquisite 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home overlooking Mira Vista Golf Course. Two master suites, head-on Golden Gate view in living room and one master suite. Beautiful floors, 3 fireplaces, 6 decks, fabulous kitchen with delightful breakfast nook.

Open Sun 2-5

Nic Tang
(510) 559-2918



SAN PABLO
2121 Vale Road #309 \$219,000

Bright, freshly painted top floor condo with vaulted ceilings, loft, two bedrooms, fireplace and two decks! Master suite with walk-in closet. Centrally located in San Pablo.

Open Sun 2-4

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Open Sunday



CLAREMONT \$1,575,000
614 ALVARADO RD. (Open 2-4)
Custom built re-creation of the original 1922 Colonial home. Exceptional quality & detailing. 4BR/3BA, 4 fireplaces, SF & GG views, double lot & 2 garages. Mary Montali x1350

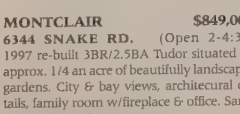
CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,500,000
7065 MARLBOROUGH (Open 2-4:30)
Live in high style while viewing the glittering lights of SF's famed skyline. 2 year old 4+BR/2+BA contemporary w/kitchen/family room & level yard area. Magnificent & sumptuous! Kathleen Callahan x1343



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,269,000
5132 PROCTOR AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Stunning 4+BR/2.5BA Mediterranean Villa by the August Company. Breathing tiled terrace w/bay views. Nancy Moore x1302



BERKELEY \$1,150,000
983 ARLINGTON AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Julia Morgan Masterpiece! Lots of sunshine, large rooms, level lot, bay, city & bridge views. Vaulted redwood living rm with balcony & stone fireplace. 3BR/1.5BA, sep. cottage. Close to shopping & transportation. Jack McPhail x1336



MONTCLAIR \$849,000
6344 SNAKE RD. (Open 2-4:30)
1997 re-built 3BR/2.5BA Tudor situated on approx. 1/4 an acre of beautifully landscaped gardens. City & bay views, architectural details, family room w/fireplace & office. Sandi Klemmer x1314

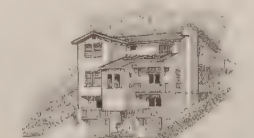
PACIFIC UNION

510.339.6460
www.pacunion.com

Open Sunday



OAKLAND HILLS \$1,110,000
2101 TUNNEL RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Smashing new 3+BR/2.5BA contemporary Mediterranean designed by architect Richard Janzen. Chef's kitchen w/fam rm combo, & beautiful entry courtyard. Dee Knowland x1318

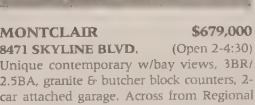


MONTCLAIR \$749,000
6248 SWAINLAND RD. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Stylish contemporary w/Tuscan Style Hill, SF Bay & Mt. Tam views. Impressive living & dining room. Large lot w/upper deck to capture the breathtaking views. 5BR/3.5BA. Teri Carlisle x1305



GRAND LAKE \$679,000
1017 WALKER AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Sunny & spacious 1921 Craftsman rich in architectural detail. Formal wood paneled dining room. 4BR/1+BA, updated eat-in kitchen & park-like yard. Great location. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

Open Sunday



MONTCLAIR \$679,000

8471 SKYLINE BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)

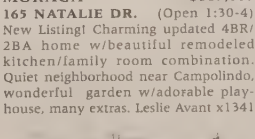
Unique contemporary w/bay views. 3BR/2.5BA, granite & butcher block counters, 2-car attached garage. Across from Regional Park. Chuck Corwin x1353



MORAGA \$615,000

165 NATALIE DR. (Open 1:30-4)

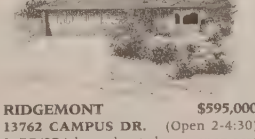
New Listing! Charming updated 4BR/2BA home w/beautiful remodeled kitchen/family room combination. Quiet neighborhood near Campolindo, wonderful garden w/adorable playhouse, many extras. Leslie Avant x1341



RIDGEMONT \$595,000

13762 CAMPUS DR. (Open 2-4:30)

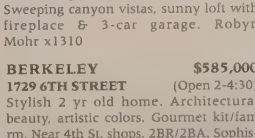
3+BR/2BA home located on over an acre of land adjoining scenic Regional Park. Sweeping canyon vistas, sunny loft with fireplace & 3-car garage. Robyn Mohr x1310



BERKELEY \$585,000

1729 6TH STREET (Open 2-4:30)

Stylish 2 yr old home. Architectural beauty, artistic colors. Gourmet kit/fam rm. Near 4th St. shops. 2BR/2BA. Sophisticated! Nancy Noman x1373



EMERYVILLE \$260,000

1510 F PARK AVE. (Open 2-4)

New Listing! High style, high tech studio condo w/loft bedroom, great light & fine finishes in the exciting Emeryville Warehouse/Park Ave Historical District near Pixar & East Bay bridge. Gini Erck x1339

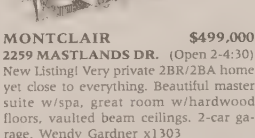
Open Sunday



MONTCLAIR \$499,000

2259 MASTLANDS DR. (Open 2-4:30)

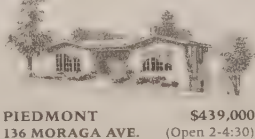
New Listing! Very private 2BR/2BA home yet close to everything. Beautiful master suite w/spa, great room w/hardwood floors, vaulted beam ceilings, 2-car garage. Wendy Gardner x1303



PIEDMONT \$439,000

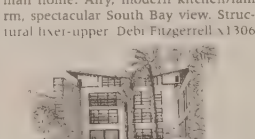
136 MORAGA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)

New Listing! Charming 2BR/1BA craftsman home. Airy, modern kitchen/fam rm, spectacular South Bay view. Structural liver-upper. Debi Fitzgerald x1306



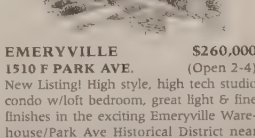
NORTH BERKELEY \$1,700,000

Spacious light filled 5+BR/3BA w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325



MONTCLAIR \$1,700,000

Spacious 6 yr old contemporary w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325



MONTCLAIR \$1,700,000

Great location in desirable Piedmont side of Montclair. 2+BR/2BA w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325

By Appointment



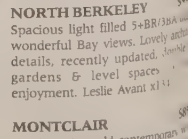
THOUSAND OAKS \$1,300,000
Gorgeous rare property in N. Berkeley. 5+BR/4BA, beautiful kitchen, custom kit, lower lvl w/sep. entrance. Close to everything. Anne Van Dine x1302



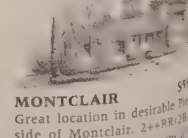
CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,300,000
Exquisite Crocker Highlands home. Gracious public rooms rich w/wood. Gourmet kit, library & living room. Private English gardens. 3BR/3BA 1BA down. Teri Carlisle x1305



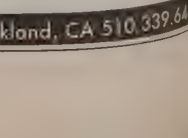
PIEDMONT \$1,700,000
Gracious country-English style w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325



NORTH BERKELEY \$1,700,000
Spacious light filled 5+BR/3BA w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325



MONTCLAIR \$1,700,000
Spacious 6 yr old contemporary w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325



MONTCLAIR \$1,700,000
Great location in desirable Piedmont side of Montclair. 2+BR/2BA w/5+BR/4.5BA, excellent kitchen/library w/fireplace & convenient breakfast rm & fam rm. Level out w/ beautiful gardens, play yard & sports court. Georgia Cornell x1325

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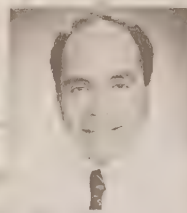
Jack Brenneman



Rachel Baller



Darcy Diamantine



Victor Fierro



George Karsant



Evelyn Walker



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FROM PAGE B6

and broker license testing preparation. For anyone needing license renewal all 45 hours of DRE tests are available in half-day sessions. Courses and test preparation are offered for the brokers license State Exam. To ask about class schedules and costs call 1-800-439-4909.

MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

Attention Mortgage Professionals. Learning more about an industry is as important as being a part of that industry. The California Association of Residential Lenders

(CARL) and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMB) strive to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. Both have monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers discussing timely topics. CARL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6 p.m. Networking also kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month. To find out more call these organizations' hotlines. The CARL Hotline is 925-746-1847. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

Breakfast Club
Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Res-

idential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic Boulevard. Start time begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call Pat Johnson at 925-296-3300.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

■ Ira Serkes of RE/Max Bay Area in Berkeley was a featured speaker at the RE/Max International Convention. The convention was held in Orlando, Florida. RE/Max International includes 38 countries and over 60,000 agents. This was Serkes third time at the convention's speakers podium. Serkes is avail-

able at 510-526-6668 or ira@berkeleyhomes.com.

■ Just spoke to Colleen Porter, Executive Officer for the Oakland Association of Realtors. She promised 2002 would be a busy and exciting year for the association. Watch this column for upcoming OAR events. Porter can be reached at the OAR office at 510-836-3000.

■ Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below.

WHAT'S UP DOC??

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, meetings, an-

ouncements, promotions and change of company. Information to reach me. Send me an e-mail to biereld@dotplanet.net or info to me at 510-441-1190 at 510-441-1190.

To reach the real estate editor, call 510-748-1655 or e-mail devanosky@cctimes.com

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Indicates Homes Being Held Open

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

Montclair \$729,000
Contemporary 3BR/2+BA. Wraparound deck with canyon views, vaulted ceilings. Easy commute to SF.
Fatima Ali (510) 845-0211

Open Sun. 2-5 \$695,000
887 Trestle Glen. Crocker Highlands. Stately Tudor, 2+BR/2BA; attic expansion - family room, office, plus room. Charm galore!
Dolores Thom (510) 763-1218 (510) 834-2010

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

Open Sun. 2-5 \$439,000
1 Maggiora. Oakland Hills. Split-level ranch style home featuring 3BR, family room & 2.5BA. Great floor plan & a view too!
Lois Harris (510) 287-2521 (510) 834-2010

Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$419,000
59 Montell Street. Exquisite 1920's 2BR/1BA showcase bungalow. Just steps to Piedmont Ave.
Brian Santilena (510) 339-9290

Open Sun. 2-4 \$349,000
432 50th St. Temescal. Bungalow! 2+BR/1BA, nr. shops, transit & fwy's. Light remodeled.
Connie Payne (510) 524-2526

Lake Merritt Condo \$325,000
Remodeled 2BR/2BA corner unit in solid bldg. New slate floors, new kitchen, baths, FP, views!
Richard Matus (510) 834-2010

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Open Sun. 2-4 \$339,000
3011 Dohr St. Newly renovated. Bright & sunny 2BR/1BA home with lots of charm. Close to BART & Berkeley Bowl.
Tom Andrus (510) 834-2010

Coming Soon
Berkeley fixer!! 2-story 4BR/2BA, 2200+ sq. ft., walk to Ashby BART. Easy freeway access. U.C. campus.
Cynthia (510) 845-0200

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Open Sun. 2-4 \$469,000
2603 Mira Vista Dr. Lovely home with inlaw unit and Bay views. This quality 4+BR, 3BA home offers a flexible floor plan. The spacious inlaw unit can be used as 5th BR or den. Convenient to BART, shopping, schools and freeway.
Carol Heath-Kim (510) 527-9800

Piedmont Traditional \$649,000
Sunny home on great street, 2+BR/2BA, formal dining rm., marble FP, charming garden, pano. views from deck.
Claire Cunningham (510) 287-9065

Open Sun. 1-4 \$639,000
3315 Victor Ave. Great court location. 5BR/3.5BA. Huge home, ready to move-in. A must see!
Sovanna Yorn (510) 527-9800

Open Sun 2-4 \$599,950
1589 Scenic. Walk to UC! 2+BR w/sunrm., close to UC! Non-conforming in-law unit!
Terrence Jue (510) 524-2526

Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$545,000
3692 Calafia. Beautiful, new construction w/3+BR/2.5BA, exhibits quality throughout!
Sharon Ho (510) 339-9290

Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$499,000
4200 Coolidge Avenue. Loads of house w/4BR/4BA, pano. Bay views and great potential!
David Otero (510) 339-9290

Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$479,000
3971 Greenwood Ave. Charming 2BR/1BA Glenview home w/hwd. flrs. and remodeled kitchen & bath.
Hope Broderick (510) 339-9290

Redwood Heights \$458,000
Cute 4BR/2BA country cottage w/room to spare, hwd. flrs. and easy access to 580 & 13.
Myrtice Wong (510) 339-9290

Traditional Fixer \$449,000
3BR/2BA Crocker Highlands home in need of TLC! Deep lot, great location, good bones!!
Nancy Hinkley (510) 428-0900

ALAMEDA

Alameda East-End \$465,000
Ranch style home. 3BR/2BA. All updated, hardwood floor throughout. Good schools.
Eunice Edwards (510) 763-7716

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Open Sun 2-4 \$570,000
841 Talbot Ave. Roomy Albany Home. 5BR/4BA, flex. flr. plan, pvt. bkyd, fruit tr., off-st. pkg. - nr. Solano, grt. schls.
Vanessa Lighthaus@earthlink.net (510) 524-2526

Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$389,000
1253 Hearst Ave. Charming & immac. starter! 2BR/1BA, hrdwd., remodeled, lovely yd., fabulous loc. Walk to BART.
Janet Kaplan (510) 845-0200

Totally Remodeled \$369,000
2+BR, 1.5BA w/lg. kitchen w/family rm. Detached study/office, roof deck, skylight, good size yard & much more.
Wendy Louie (510) 273-9306 (510) 849-3711

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Crossroads Compound \$1,450,000
An entire 1/2 acre compound at crossroads of North Oakland/Emeryville, BART and 580, frontier and hip.
Barbara Reynolds (510) 287-9361

Coming Soon! \$699,000
Beautiful 9 unit post Victorian renovated apartment building in Oakland. Call Pascal for details.
Pascal & Ana Forest (510) 845-0200 (510) 273-9332

Investor's Dream \$579,000
Huge, rehabed duplex, 4+ up, 3+ dwn. New roof, sewer lot, updated kitch/baths, large lot. Market Rents 9.1 GRM at \$579K.
Andrew Sussman (510) 273-9192

Unique Property! \$379,000
Mixed use in Richmond, 2 res. units & 2 comm. units! Rare find!
Logene Butler (510) 524-2526

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Open Sunday, March 3, 2-4:30pm

883 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley
Julia Morgan Masterpiece! 1911 Stone & Redwood
Lots of sunshine, large rooms, level lot, close to shopping and transportation, city & bridge views. Vaulted redwood living room with balcony & stone fireplace. Separate cottage/au pair. 3 bedrooms/1.5 baths. 3,000+ square feet.

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BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

Open Homes: Sun., March 3

1152 Laurel, Berkeley. Open Sun. 2-4:30. Magnificent home in the North Berkeley Hills. Golden Gate view and over 5000 sq. ft. space. Includes 5+ bdrms. 4.5 baths and hardwood floors on all three levels. Landscaped double lot creates a private setting yet is close to U.C. and shops. Kitchen, gracious sunny living room, music room, home theater, master suite w/dressing room and terrace. 2nd level includes large family room, 2 spacious bdrms all w/French doors. Huge lawn. Built by architect John Long in 1924, it is now in pristine condition. Exquisite attention to detail. A masterpiece. Offered at \$2,200,000. Jane Allen, 423

1515 Hopkins #1, Berkeley. By Appointment. Charming 2+ bedroom, 2 bath unique 2-level condo in the heart of Northbrae. Hardwood floors, garage, 2 kitchens, and an unbeatable location. Offered at \$385,000. Denise Milburn, x35

777 Cragmont Ave., Berkeley. Enjoy being close to all the pleasures of the Gourmet Ghetto, the U.C. Campus, and quick access to transportation. Bay views from the enormous living/dining room w/fireplace. Two bedrooms, one with French doors to the terraced back garden and patio. Two full baths upstairs. Plus room, laundry area and half-bath w/internal access from the one-car garage. Newly refinished oak floors. Freshly painted. Offered at \$495,000. Arlene Baxter, x19

1519 Ocean, Berkeley. Open Sun. 2-4. A rare find. 3+ bedrooms, 2+ baths, w/1.5 car garage. Public transportation all the amenities. Offered at \$385,000. Denise Milburn, x35

Emergyville. Beautiful, spacious 2-bedroom, 2-bath loft within walking distance to Andronico's Central Market. Free shuttle to BART and easy commute to S.E. Offered at \$419,000. Chris Ehlers-Hardie, x22

Parkwoods Condos, Oakland. Excellent amenities in a complex-pool, gym, security, on-site maintenance, express bus to BART.

320 Caldecott Lane #128. New Listing! Open Sun. Beautifully maintained 2-bedroom, 2-bath in sought after new complex. Gourmet kitchen, gas fireplace, walk-in closet, full lot more! Offered at \$330,000. Denise Milburn, x35

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EL CERRITO 510-517-9800	GRAND LAKE 510-834-2010	KENSINGTON 510-526-5143	MONTCLAIR 510-339-9290	PIEDMONT 510-428-0900

Sales

FROM PAGE B9

1 Kelton Ct #1K - \$215,000
5227 Locksley Av - \$300,000
3720 Loma Vista Av - \$155,000
2930 Madeline St - \$419,000
6762 Manor Crest - \$524,000
10731 Mark St - \$342,500
4020 Mera St - \$120,000
6008 Monadnock Wy - \$299,500
7958 Mountain Bl - \$365,000
2917 Nicol Av - \$190,000
3503 Rhoda Av - \$310,000
1449 Trestle Glen Rd - \$525,000
330 Vernon St #103 - \$265,000
3539 Willis Ct - \$399,000

RICHMOND

611 13th St - \$165,000
780 21st St - \$245,000
1030 26th St - \$279,000
677 31st St - \$285,000
608 38th St - \$193,500
421 44th St - \$199,000
6128 Bernhard Av - \$500,000
1009 Canyon Creek - \$583,000
1204 Club Dr - \$172,500
3003 Florida Av - \$120,000
254 Gertrude Av - \$110,000
2434 Humphrey Av - \$225,000
2720 Lincoln Av - \$230,000
940 Lucas Av - \$225,000
951 McLaughlin St - \$255,000
4417 Nevlin Av - \$141,000
3704 Painted Pony - \$367,000

SAN LEANDRO

206 Accolade Dr - \$393,000
208 Accolade Dr - \$407,000
833 Bancroft Av - \$466,000
324 Begier Av - \$325,000
1400 Carpenter #414 - \$255,000
2061 Charlotte Av - \$295,000
14115 Doolittle Dr - \$219,000
533 Dutton Av - \$364,500
851 Frederick Rd - \$292,000
880 Glen Dr - \$405,000
2219 Goldfish Ct - \$373,000
374 Herma Ct - \$75,000
3767 Lamoureux St - \$335,000
1276 Margery Av - \$318,000
2385 Marina Bl - \$210,000
14990 Norton St - \$282,500
14324 Orchid Dr - \$325,000
1506 Peters St - \$290,000
14895 Saturn Dr - \$155,000
2251 Snipe Ct - \$376,000
439 Superior Av - \$313,000
711 Tudor Rd - \$300,000
741 Woodgate Ct - \$245,000
2440 Yaffe Dr - \$425,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$237,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$730,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$458,25

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$185,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$502,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$343,750

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$ 60,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$600,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$345,600

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$180,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$405,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$296,750

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$300,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$400,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$343,750

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$191,500

HIGHEST PRICE: \$400,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$275,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$288,833

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$371,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$675,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$659,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$568,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 40
LOWEST PRICE: \$120,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,395,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$332,700

REDWOOD

TOTAL SALES: 22
LOWEST PRICE: \$110,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$583,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$275,341

TIBURON

TOTAL SALES: 24
LOWEST PRICE: \$ 75,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$466,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$310,167

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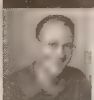
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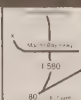


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Built in 1908 by the current owner's grandfather, this lovely Neoclassic Rowhouse has never before been offered for sale. Richly detailed with coffered ceilings, redwood wainscoting and beautiful built-ins, this home offers a wonderful opportunity. Unspoiled by past updates, a little elbow-grease and fresh paint will return this classic house to its turn of the century splendor. 3+BD, 1+BA. Near Children's Hospital, walk to BART!
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SUPER SHARP/GREAT AREA \$435,000
3BR, 2BA appr. 1438 Sq. Ft. All on one level, in/out, hardwood fls, new fixtures, new roof, new air conditioning, 2 car att. garage, fireplace, dining area. 1 level home. #02000031 Michele Manzoni 510-662-8545

NEW LISTING/GREAT QUALITY THROUGHOUT \$439,000
3BR, 2BA over 2000 Sq. Ft., 1 car att. garage w/interior access. Hardwood floors, family room, lovely yard w/deck. #02004413 Lynette Ng 510-662-8497

NEW LISTING/COUNTRY CLUB TOWNHOME \$469,000
2122 Pinehurst Ct. (Open Sun 2-4) 3+BR, 2BA almost 2000 Sq. Ft., 2 car att. garage w/interior access. Gorgeous master suite, gleaming hardwood, new neutral Berber carpet, glass door to patio, 3rd BR currently used as a den. Move-in condition. #02004435 www.carladellazoppa.com

BERKELEY

BERKELEY CHARMER \$395,000
3BR, 1BA Almost 1400 Sq. Ft. Move-in condition! Nice yard, 1 car detached garage, fireplace, family room. #01041371 Lynette Ng 510-662-8497

RICHMOND VIEW

LOOKS & FEELS LIKE NEW! \$269,500
2BR, 1BA almost completely redone inside/out. Delightful fam. rm., w/wood burning stove, newer central heat. #02002465 Margrith Byer 510-235-0243

PRIVATE CHARMER IN THE TREES \$328,988
3BR, 2BA appr. 1663 sq. ft., enjoy country living, close to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Lovely in-law too! www.cynthiaburke.com

SAN PABLO VIEW/NEAR EL SOBRANTE \$309,950
3BR, 2BA Almost 1300 Sq. Ft. 2 Car att. garage, fireplace, central heat, exposed beam ceiling, dual ovens, remodeled kitchen, French doors off master to deck. Landscaping, foundation work done. Lot to 9583 sq. ft. #02003805 Mark Bruzzone 510-662-8521

PINOLE

LOVELY PINOLE RIDGE HOME \$365,000
824 Antonia Circle (Open Sun 2-4) 4BR, 2.5BA, Over 1800 Sq. Ft. Hardwood floors thru-out first level, Master Suite, 2 car attached garage w/int. access, sunny kitchen w/white tile counters, formal dining room, living room w/vaulted ceiling & fireplace, large family rm w/glass doors out to brick patio & lovely private yard, tile roof, new interior paint. #02004421 www.geristern.com 510-662-8469

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This stunning 1971 contemporary offers a sweeping bay view and a private drive. Through the custom iron gate, one enters a breathtaking living room with soaring ceiling and massive stone fireplace. This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home is all on one level and has a lovely yard, complete w/Jacuzzi tub and wonderful gardening spaces. Home has it all.
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Stunning Duplex by Rose Garden
Main House
This charming Traditional offers 3 spacious bedrooms! 1.5 bath & office which could be the 4th bedroom. The inviting living room w/gleaming hardwood floors makes this home an attractive choice. Other features include:
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• Large level yard for those who love gardening
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Oakland	San Leandro
\$180,000 834 Peralta St. Contractors special! 4bd, 1ba, formal dining room, laundry room and unfinished basement. Across from elementary school and near BART. Can be very charming home. Nina 510-814-4836	\$249,000 1400 Carpenter St. #116, 2bd, 2ba condo convenient to BART, Bus, and shopping. Lovely garden in courtyard with pool, spa, & clubhouse. Elevators, 1 garage space. Tere 510-814-4840
\$188,000 3W Embarcadero 227. Quaint super private unit on second floor with carport parking. One bedroom with double doors. Walk to Jack London waterfront. Next to channel "2". Donnaluci 510-814-4826	\$270,000 14413 Seagate Dr. OPEN SUN. 2-4. Immaculate 2 bd, 1 ba townhome in lovely location near fountain & streams. All appliances are included. Near Marina and golf course. Tere 510-814-4840
\$225,000 930 Pine St. Perfect for live/work! Approx. 1400 sq. ft. 14' ceiling, skylights, & roll up door. Needs work! Good location. Kathy 510-814-4706	\$329,000 2507 Galleon Pl. Lovely quiet location at Marina. 3 bd 2.5ba owning 1/2 acre. Community pool, tennis courts, spa, and close to golf course Tere 510-814-4840
\$325,000 1366 34th St. OPEN SAT & SUN 10-4. Live-work opportunity in loft-style converted Victorian. New foundation. Downstairs legal height. Wonderful raised bed garden. Can be used residential or commercial. Kathy 510-814-4706	\$395,000 1234 Ardmore Dr. Great condition! Wonderful living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bd, 2 ba, 2 car garage. Appliances, and attached 2 car garage. Jean 510-814-4822
\$259,000 1427 17th St. Very large home. This house needs work. 1 complete bath, 2 roughed in baths, high basement w/aprox. 1500 sq. ft. of storage. Concrete foundation. Live upstairs, work downstairs. Kathy 510-814-4706	\$439,888 16615 Rolando Ave. Panoramic view of the Bay! Spacious 4 bd, 3 ba, 2 car garage. Attached 2 car garage. Nina 510-814-4836
\$329,000 1182 14th St. Property is in residential zoning, cannot be used as commercial. Ideal for creative owner-occupant, some live-work unit. OK 3+ bedrooms, off street parking. Kathy 510-814-4706	Hayward \$299,900 20 Trestle Dr. French country charm-large 3+bd, 2ba and unit. Remodeled kitchen, 1bd and bath on main level. Two fireplaces - dining room and master suite. Attached garage. Margaret 510-814-4829
San Leandro \$69,000 82 Santa Margarita. Spacious double-wide mobile home in great location! 2bd, 2ba, den/family room, laundry room, and lots of closet space. Two car carport and storage shed. Senior Citizen Park, 55+ required. Chuck 510-814-4847	El Cerrito \$595,000 5490 Barret Avenue. Colonial 4+ bedroom, 2.5 bath home with master bedroom with sitting area and fireplace. 2 car garage. 2 car garage. 2 car garage. Denise 510-814-4871
\$335,000 14578 Outrigger Dr. Condo in Seagate Community w/amenities and 2.5 baths, 2 car garage and spa. Tere 510-814-4706	

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6.750

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A Better Mortgage 800-432-0424 DRE#01242793	30-yr Fixed 6.500...0.000 6.660...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.750...0.000 6.910...30	15-yr Fixed 6.000...0.000 6.160...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.160...30		Open Weekends Credit Problems OK! 2nd Mfg's. No equity required. www.capitalvalleymortgage.com
AAA Mortgage 888-521-6200 DRE#01096146	30-yr Fixed 6.625...0.000 6.720...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.750...0.000 6.800...30	15-yr Fixed 6.125...0.000 6.280...30	3/1 ARM 5.000...2.000 5.280...30		DEBT CONSOLIDATION HOME IMPROVEMENT WWW.AAAHOMELANS.NET
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE#00892684	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	Special*	Special*		\$650k amt
A-Olympic Funding-Best Rate 800-640-5588 DRE#01197415	30-yr Fixed 6.250...2.000 6.360...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.500...2.000 6.710...30	15-Yr Fixed 5.625...2.000 5.740...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.625...2.000 5.730...30		Open 7 days 9-5 Apply 24/7 www.ofreloans.com Please call office at the Raleigh's Center
California Mortgage Mart 800-947-4769 DRE#00406187	30-yr Fixed call...	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call...	15-yr Fixed call...			For further details and Loan Application, visit www.CaliforniaMortgageMart.com
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE#00874441	30-yr Fixed 6.375...1.000 6.570...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 7.750...1.000 7.940...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.940...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375...1.000 5.570...30		Interest Rates are on the move daily. Call Today for the Lowest Rates + Fees. Rates are Lowest in 7 yrs. Submit applic. + get pre-approved
CMG Mortgage 800-958-5339 DRE#01170028	30-yr Fixed 6.375...1.375 6.575...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.625...1.250 6.775...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250...1.125 5.378...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250...1.250 5.893...30		Open Saturday, + Sunday. Quik Qualifier and Stated Income option available. Available financing for people with less than perfect credit
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DRE#00921943	30-yr Fixed 6.375...1.750 6.574...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.625...2.000 6.837...45	1-mo ARM 2.950...1.500 5.712...45			Direct Lender 45 Years Experience Fixed & Adjustable Rate Mortgages
Homeward Solutions 800-641-7556 DRE#00921943	30-yr Fixed 6.500...0.750 6.740...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.875...0.500 7.090...30	15-yr Fxd 6.000...0.500 6.220...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo call...		www.finet.com
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE#00887562	30-yr Fixed 6.875...0.000 7.160...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 7.000...0.000 7.120...30	15-yr Fixed 6.250...0.000 6.530...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6.375...0.000 6.680...60		Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. All gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction. 20 years of service
Olympic Funding Bay Area 888-833-1000 DRE#01197415	30-yr Fixed 6.875...0.000 6.973...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 7.000...0.000 7.049...30	25yr/6mo Jumbo* 4.125...0.000 4.173...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.960...30		Jumbo Libor ARM 4.125% w/ int. only option Call weekends 9-9. Apply www.SFOunding.com Your Mortgage Reduction Specialists
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE#01124581	30-yr Fixed 6.625...0.000 6.723...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.875...0.000 6.918...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6.500...0.000 6.542...30	1-mo ARM 5.625...0.000 5.717...30		100% Purchase Loans Se habla Espanol! Credit Problems OK
Paramount Mortgage 800-372-7266 DRE#00622056	30-yr Fixed 6.250...2.000 6.750...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.750...1.000 7.000...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo* 5.875...2.000 6.375...45	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250...1.000 6.375...45		*Interest only 1st five years Loans up to \$2,500,000
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Montclair \$1,995,000 Beautifully remodeled! Very unique home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bonus room. (925) 997-9062	Oakland/Rockridge \$1,300,000 Historic Rockridge. The grand porte-cochere invites you to this circa 1873 Italianate Villa situated on an estate-sized, creekside lot. Features an ornate entry hall, generous formal rooms, and fabulous details. Truly a rare offering. Steven Biasatti (510) 339-8900 x239	Lafayette \$1,299,000 Once in a Lifetime Opportunity! \$1,299,000. Enjoy this special estate w/contemporary design. Featuring 5 bedrooms including a dramatic master suite w/fireplace and sauna, 3.5 baths, spacious entry with an atrium, and a floor plan perfect for entertaining. Randy Churchill (925) 975-4360	Oakland \$750,000 Hiller Highlands. Unobstructed Bay Views. Sunny end unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Two master suites, and two decks. Mary Hanna (510) 339-8900 x253	Berkeley \$599,000 North Berkeley. Unique home on a quiet street walking distance to U.C., 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths + cottage, first time on the market in 50 years. Mary Hanna (510) 339-8900 x253
Oakland/Havenscourt \$220,000 Only a little TLC and you can have a beautiful home. 3BD/2BA. Living/dining area replacement. (510) 339-8900 x262	Oakland/Lake Merritt \$259,000 Peak Of The Lake. Quiet, secure 2BR, 2BA condo on Lake Merritt. Freshly painted throughout and ready to move in. Well maintained building! End-unit for peace of mind. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230	Oakland/Montclair \$569,000 Montclair Traditional. Sunny tree-lined street, 1950's traditional w/large Family Room. 2 car garage. Front garden, updated eat-in kitchen. Lois Johnson (510) 339-8900 x226	Oakland/Montclair \$549,000 Spacious Home in Woody Setting. This 3BD/2BA contemporary home has a large LR w/FP, built-in bookshelves and soaring ceiling - ideal for entertaining, or simply relaxing. Step out of the upstairs loft area to deck. Lushly landscaped upslope yard. Mel Copland (510) 339-8900 x255	Oakland \$289,950 Location! Location! Location! Very clean and charming. Sunny kitchen, nook, indoor laundry, formal living and dining rooms, original kitchen, some new windows, deck with corner off patio. Needs TLC but has great potential. Linda Smith (925) 456-5047
Oakland \$1,799,000 One of the best lots in Diablo Ranch Estates. A single story home in a prestigious setting. Close to hills and nestled at the foot of the hills. (510) 339-8900 x262	Oakland \$1,380,000 In the Heart of Oakland! Single story building located in a fast moving commercial district. Building is approx. 3156 sq. ft., on .18 acre lot w/parking spaces in the rear. Property is zoned for commercial-retail and can be developed into a multi-level office building. Conveniently located! (510) 339-8900 x262	Concord \$459,800 Sale Pending! Four bedroom, 2.5 bath home with bonus room for office, new fence & retaining wall. Loft, RV/boat parking on the side. (510) 339-8900 x262	Danville \$644,950 Sycamore Creek Beauty! Enjoy gracious & comfortable living in this spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Featuring an excellent floor plan, a large private yard, and beautifully maintained. (510) 339-8900 x262	Lafayette \$650,000 Fabulous View Lot! Located in Relis Valley with Estate potential on 2.34 Acres! Huge and private and one of the finest lots around. Bring your builder and architect to build your dream home and create your own private estate. (510) 339-8900 x262
Blackhawk \$987,500 Decorator's own home with gorgeous new kitchen that cost over \$100,000. Open floor plan, new solar collectors for low cost electricity, new hardwood & tile. An Elegant low maintenance home on golf course. (510) 339-8900 x262	Danville \$649,950 Just Listed! 4 bedroom, 2 bath, updated kitchen, huge oak floored fam rm w/ wet bar. Great yards w/ views of park. Move-in condition. Won't last! (510) 339-8900 x262	Castro Valley \$860,000 Gorgeous Home, Large Lot! Priced includes buildable lot already subdivided (2 acres) & home on 1.31 acre - what a steal! Enjoy views of San Mateo & canyon. Huge game room with wet bar, refrig. & pool table. Updated kitchen & baths. 2 Barns & beautiful landscaping. (510) 339-8900 x262	Orinda \$769,500 Finish & Profit! Five bedroom, four bath home w/3,000 sq. ft. of living space on a private .45 acre lot. Featuring hardwood floors, lovely granite kitchen, and an excellent wooded location. (510) 339-8900 x262	

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ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3341 Fennside Blvd \$1,250,000 Open Sunday Homes-Lake Team 716-749-0300	8 + 80	3/1-BA	2.4
539 Crowdon Open Sat & Sun Maya Foss 510-814-4895 Harbor Bay Realty	480/4.5BA	2-4-30	\$1,250,000
1336 Bay St Open Sun, Main Island Mindy Hart 510-523-0746, Kane & Associates	380	2-4	\$895,000
1251 Sherman Open Sunday Dorcas Brady 510-523-8886, Baystate Real Estate	380	2-4-30	\$795,000
331 Anderson Open Sat & Sun Ringo Liu, 510-814-4846; Doris Vuall 510-814-4824 Harbor Bay Realty	480/2.5BA	2-4	\$688,000
1941 Kofman Open Sat & Sun Darin Vuall 510-814-4824; Ringo Liu 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty	480/3BA	2-4	\$648,000
1803 Morland Open Sunday Nancy Brand 510-814-4823 Harbor Bay Realty	380/1.5BA	2-4	\$696,000
1929 Sandcreek Way Open Sunday, Main Island Lillian Silva, Kane & Associates 510-895-8564	380	2-4	\$558,000
441 Yorkshore Rd Open Sunday Realty Advocates, Leslie Whiting 510-769-6119	4 + 80/3BA	1-4	\$548,000
2719 Calhoun St Open Sat & Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Juanita Dean 510-748-1133	380/1.5BA	2-4	\$465,000
1711 Pearl St Open Sunday Prudential, Eunice Edwards 510-763-7718	380/2BA	2-4	\$468,000
1605 Alameda Open Sunday Gallagher & Lindsey, Signe Nelson 510-748-1103	280/2.5BA	2-4	\$399,000
868 Oak St Open Sunday, Main Island John Bergman, Kane & Associates 510-814-4848	380	2-4	\$378,000
1106 Melrose Ave Open Sun Help-Us-Sell, Jane Fong 415-967-2182	280/2BA	2-4	\$372,000
1828 Ninth St Open Sunday Dora Gutierrez 510-814-4854 Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2-4	\$348,000
1312 Mount St Open Sun, Main Island Patrick Ng 925-736-7651, Kane & Associates	280	2-4-30	\$348,000
1616 Fontaine Open Sunday, Main Island Hanna Fry, Kane & Associates 510-521-5475	280	2-4	\$318,000
421 Santa Clara Ave Open Sun, Main Island Alan Gooch, Kane & Associates 510-521-0980	180	2-4	\$290,000
339 Broadway #101 Open Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Bill Blissett 510-748-1108	280/1BA	2-4	\$275,000
1333 Webster St Open Sunday, Park Webster Centralist, Nick Caporali 510-813-1363	180/1BA	1-4	\$165,000

ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
841 Talbot Vanessa Timon Smith, Prudential, 510-523-5143	580/4BA	Sun 2-4	\$570,000
947 Hillside RED OAK, 510-280-2116, Fari	condo 22	Sun 2-4	\$375,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1152 Laurel Jana Allen, Berkeley Hills Realty, 510-524-9888 123	8 + 1/2 Sun 2-4-30	\$2,200,000	
768 San Luis Rd Thousand Oaks Hills The Grubb Co. Bebe McRae (510) 339-0400	3 + 1/2 + 1/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$1,850,000	
883 Arlington Ave Pacific Union Jack McPhail (510) 339-6460 x1336	380/1.1/BA Sun 2-4-30	\$1,150,000	
1421-25 Alcatraz OPEN SUNDAY Coldwell Banker Victor Fierro (510) 339-4700	3 Units	2-4-30	\$699,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1580 Scenic Terrence Juv. Prudential, 510-828-5143	2 + 1/2BA Sun 2-4	\$998,950	
355 Arlington Ave The Grubb Co. Chris Cohn (510) 339-0400	380/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$585,000	
1729 6th St Pacific Union Nancy Roman (510) 339-6460 x1373	280/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$385,000	
2430 9th St 1 + 1/2 + 1/2 Sun 2-4	\$468,000		
1635 Scenic RED OAK, 510-280-2135, Emma	211 condo Sun 2-4	\$428,000	
1633 Edith RED OAK, 510-280-2118, Gloria	380/1BA Sun 2-4	\$399,000	
1253 Hearst Ave Janet, Prudential CA Realty, 510-845-0200	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$389,000	
1519 Oxford Maya Trilling, Berkeley Hills Realty, 510-339-9888 118	280/1.5 Sun 2-4	\$385,000	
1365 Berkeley Way RED OAK, 510-280-2178, Grace	280/1BA Sun 2-4	\$375,000	
2152 Sacramento Richardson Real Estate Svcs Georgina Richardson (510) 569-3439	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$324,000	

CONCORD

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
907 & 913 Estrella Ct Sandy Chiu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 + 1/2 + 1/2 Sun 1-4-5/19,000 & up		

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1383 Summit Park Ct McC Tang, Martin Gardens, 510-559-2918	480/3.5 Sun 2-5	\$1,380,000	
1150 James Pl Bene Millstein, Millstein & Assoc., 510-527-8822	580/4.5 In-Home	Sun 2-4	\$1,100,000
2122 Pinehurst Ct www.conradkennedy.com, Security Pacific, 510-862-8558	3 + 1/2BA Sun 2-4	\$468,000	
2603 Mira Vista Carol Heath-Kin, Prudential, 510-525-2346	480/2BA Sun 2-4	\$468,000	

EL SOBRANTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
50 La Paloma Ct Gary Torrez, Security Pacific, 510-758-5550	480/2.5 Sun 2-5	\$499,000	

EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5540 Beaudry St. #B Open Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Moon Tam 510-747-1620	380/2BA 1-4-30	\$240,000	
1510 F Park Ave High Tech Studio Condo w/ Loft Pacific Union Gini Erick (510) 339-6460 x1339	Sun 2-4	\$260,000	
5540 Beaudry St. #A Open Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Moon Tam 510-747-1620	380/2BA 1-4-30	\$255,000	
5538 Beaudry St Peter Paun & Terri Wong, Prudential CA Realty, 510-834-2010	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$240,000	

KENSINGTON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
69 Norwood Avenue OPEN SUNDAY Shari Mandel Millstein & Associates 510-524-3840	380/3BA 2-4-30	\$525,000	

MARTINEZ

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
514 Westlake Blvd Mike Lombard, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	380/2.5 Sun 1-4	\$427,000	

MORAGA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
169 Ronada Ave Clare Cunningham, Prudential, 510-297-9055	2 + 1/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$648,000	
165 Natalie Dr Pacific Union Leslie Arant (510) 339-6460 x1341	480/2BA Sun 1:30-4	\$615,000	
28 Emory Bay Dr Noani Kane, Thermal Properties, 510-848-1950 226	280/1.5 Sun 2-4	\$285,000	



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The Journal & The Alameda Journal
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OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
13099 Skyline Blvd. Hillcrest Estates, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Ruby Ng (510) 339-4700	580/5BA	2-5	\$1,875,000
614 Alvarado Rd Pacific Union Mary Montal (510) 339-6460 x1350	480/3BA Sun 2-4	\$1,575,000	
7065 Marlborough Pacific Union Kathleen Calahan (510) 339-6460 x1343	4 + BD/2 - Sun 2-4-30	\$1,500,000	
5132 Proctor Ave Pacific Union Nancy Moore (510) 339-6460 x1302	4 + BD/2 - Sun 2-4-30	\$1,269,000	
5055 Cochran Ave. Prudential Prudential CA Realty 510-428-0900	480/3BA 2-4-30	\$1,150,000	
2101 Tunnel Rd Pacific Union Dee Knowland (510) 339-6460 x1318	380/2.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$1,110,000	
6919 Bristol Dr The Grubb Co. Debra Dryden (510) 339-0400	480/3.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$995,000	
5033 Proctor Ave Upper Rockledge The Grubb Co. Sherry Benninger (510) 339-0400	480/3.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$995,000	
6150 Mazzella Dr Sandy Chiu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	480/3 - Sun 2-4-30	\$960,000	
6845 Oakwood Dr. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker T. Kulkarni, Andersen (510) 339-4700	380/2.5BA	2-5	\$885,000
6000 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes Laurel Strand 510-339-8400	380/3BA 2-4-30	\$880,000	
1850 Laimert Blvd The Grubb Co. Katherine Cooper (510) 339-0400	480/3BA Sun 2-4-30	\$875,000	
1834 Laimert Blvd The Grubb Co. John Karmay (510) 339-0400	480/3.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$875,000	
6344 Snake Rd Pacific Union Sandi Kemmer (510) 339-6460 x1314	380/2.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$848,000	
25 Binnace Hill Hillier Highlands OPEN SUNDAY, Mary Hanna 510-339-8900, 1253 C21 Heritage R.E.	380/3BA 2-4-30	\$750,000	
6248 Swinland Dr Pacific Union Teri Carlisle (510) 339-6460 x1305	580/3.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$749,000	
6620 Chelton Dr Fatima Ak, Prudential, 510-845-0211	380/2 - / Sun 2 -	\$739,000	

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2950 Morgan Bill Miller, Prudential Landmark Real Estate, 510-862-0214	480/4BA Sun 2-4-30	\$725,000	
853 Chetwood St. Grand Ave. OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Jack Brennan (510) 339-4700	4-Plex	2-5	\$725,000
989 Park Ln Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co. Judith Cain (510) 339-0400	4 + BD/2 - Sun 2-4-30	\$699,000	
887 Trestle Glen Dolores Thom, Prudential CA Realty, 510-834-2010	2 + 1/2 - 2BA Sun 2-5	\$695,000	
8471 Skyline Blvd Coldwell Banker Jack Brennan (510) 339-4700	380/2.5BA Sun 2-4-30	\$679,000	
1017 Walker Ave Pacific Union Jeffrey Mennel (510) 339-6460 x1307	480/1 - 8BA Sun 2-4-30	\$678,000	
6125 Aspinwall Rd The Grubb Co. Elizabeth Dickson (510) 339-0400	480/4BA Sun 2-4-30	\$675,000	
20 Villanova Dr. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes Nader Davari (510) 339-8400	4 + BD/3BA 2-4-30	\$675,000	
3315 Victor Ave Savanna Worn, Prudential, 510-433-7199	580/2.5 Sun 1-4	\$639,000	
12110 Tartan Way Bargaine Sales Aft. 510-653-9999	480/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$629,000	
5150 Redwood Rd. Oakland Hills, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Nader Davari (510) 339-4700	380/2.5BA	1-5	\$619,000
711 Carlton RED OAK, 510-280-2162, Saraya	3 + 1/2 - 1/2 Sun 2-4	\$599,000	
13762 Campus Dr Pacific Union Robyn Mehr (510) 339-6460 x1310	3 + BD/2BA 2-4-30	\$595,000	
482 Staten, #1103 Lakes Merritt, UPPER SUNWAY, Coldwell Banker Lydia Way (510) 339-4700	280/2BA	2-4	\$589,000
5603 Amy Drive Upper Rockledge Wells & Bennett Peter Nicolopoulos 510-531-7000 x248	380/1.1BA 2-4-30	\$575,000	
306 Florence Ave. Rockridge, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Michael Thompson (510) 339-4700	2 + BD/1BA	2-5	\$575,000
6883 Sarotti Drive Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Lois Johnson 510-339-8900, 1226 C21 Heritage R.E.	380/2BA 2-4-30	\$568,000	
740 Calmar Ave Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co. Faye Keogh (510) 339-0400	380/1.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$565,500	
740 Calmar Ave Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co. Faye Keogh (510) 339-0400	380/1.1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$565,000	

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
81 & 83 Yosemite Jenny Ma, Prudential, 510-834-2010	480/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$548,000
6017 Kearney Ave. u. Miller, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Dell Orr (510) 339-4700	380/2.5BA	2-4-30	\$548,000
3692 Calafia Sharon Ma, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 + 1/2, 2.5BA 2-4-30	\$545,000	
6678 Heartwood Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Judy Rankin-Ackerman (510) 339-4700	480/2 - BA	1-4-30	\$528,000
4100 Malcolm BPEK Sunway, Coldwell Banker Donna Conroy (510) 339-4700	2 + BD/2BA	1-5	\$525,000
4449 Pleasant Valley Ct. Piedmont, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes Nader Davari (510) 339-8400	580/1.5BA	2-4-30	\$525,000
3839 Randolph Ave. Lee Goodrich, Thermal Properties, 510-848-1950	380/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$499,000
2259 Mastland Dr Pacific Union Wendy Gardner (510) 339-6460 x1303	280/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$499,000	
4200 Coolidge Ave David Olson, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	480/4BA Sun 2-4-30	\$499,000	
8000 Surrey Lane Berkshire Homes, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes Jim Schubert (510) 339-4000	580/2BA 2-4-30	\$495,000	
3779 Park Blvd Way Wells & Bennett Stan Hammond 510-531-7000 x246	380/2BA	2-4-30	\$485,000
3971 Greenwood Ave. Hope Broderick, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$478,000	
612 Trestle Glen Nancy Minerva, Prudential, 510-428-0900	380/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$448,000	
59 Montell St Brian Sanderson, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$418,000	
309 4th St Jack London Square The Grubb Co. Ed Rao (510) 339-0400	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$399,500	
3652 Harbor View Ave Redwood Heights The Grubb Co. Debi DiMaggio (510) 339-0400	380/2BA Sun 2-4-30	\$389,000	
1100 California St. Laurel, OPEN SUNDAY, Better Homes Earle Shenk (510) 339-4000	580/1BA 2-4-30	\$385,000	
8048 Greenly Dr Lorne Lutz, Realty World East Bay, 510-625-8900	2 + 1/2BA Sun 2-4	\$343,000	
432 50th St Connie Payne, Prudential, 510-824-2526	2 + 1/2BA Sun 2-4	\$343,000	
320, Caldecott Lane Donise Williams, Berkeley Hills Realty, 510-524-8888 x35	280/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$330,000
2539 Millbrae Maxwell Park, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Phyllis Wherry (510) 339-4700	280/1BA	2-5	\$329,000
372/374 45th St 180/1BA UP & 180/1BA Down The Grubb Co. Tricia Swift (510) 339-0400	180/1 - BA	10-4	\$325,000
5841 MacCall RED OAK, 510-280-2177, Merritt	280/1.5	Sun 2-4	\$309,000
389 Belmont St. #110 Wells & Bennett Patsy Buhler 510-531-7000 x238	280/2BA	2-4-30	\$295,000
3594-98 Lincoln Ave 2 Houses on One Lot Wells & Bennett Don Dunning 510-531-7000 x239	2-4-30	\$289,000	
2900/2902 Georgia Lower Laurel, OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker Reva Tolbert (510) 339-4700	Duplex	2-4-30	\$284,950
320 Lee St #606 Wells & Bennett Patsy Buhler 510-531-7000 x238	180/1BA	2-4-30	\$259,000
151 Lakeside Dr. #213 Tom Merritt 510-339-8900, 1230 C21 Heritage R.E.	280/2BA	2-4-30	\$259,000
2171 41st Ave Peter Paun/Toni Wong, 510-834-2010	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$255,000	
1729 10th St Felicja Owens, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	280/1BA Sun 2-4-30	\$250,000	

OAKLAND

Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
4048 Aquia Vista Close Price Info, Prudential		1 + 1/2BA	1-4-30	\$199,000
730 29th St. #108 RED OAK, 510-280-2116, Fari		1 + 1/2BA	1-4-30	\$179,000
2115 194th Ave. Angelo Bagnato, Prudential		380/2BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
320 Lee St. #104 Adams Post Wells & Bennett Patsy Buhler 510-531-7000 x238		180/1BA	2-4-30	\$169,000
6231 Avenal Ave. Kaisercrest OPEN SUNDAY, Shelsa Sacramento 510-848-1950		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
688 Oakland Ave. #10 OPEN SUNDAY, Coldwell Banker		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
4000 Pacific Ave. The Grubb Co. 480/1BA Sun 2-4-30		480/1BA	2-4-30	\$169,000
300 Pacific Ave. The Grubb Co. 480/1BA Sun 2-4-30		480/1BA	2-4-30	\$169,000
136 Moraga Ave Pacific Union 380/2BA Sun 2-4-30		380/2BA	2-4-30	\$169,000
PINOLE Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
824 Antares Circle www.gentlerhomes.com, Irene Hsu 510-531-1100		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
PITTSBURGH Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
2209 Woodside Dr OPEN SUNDAY Gallagher & Lindsey, Moon Tam 510-748-1108		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
PLEASANTON Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
3253 Vineyard #121 Markle Woods-Hills, Prudential		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
POINT RICHMOND Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
353 Ocean Ave Kancy Foss, Thermal Properties		360/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
RICHMOND Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
77 Sandpoint SACRAMENTO Open Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Michael Smith 510-748-1108		1 + 1/2BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
9128 Sonoma St Armed Asst. Properties Co 510-531-2636		380/2BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
SAN LEANDRO Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
471 Superior SACRAMENTO Coldwell Banker		1 + 1/2BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
261 Julius St RED OAK, 510-280-2116, Fari		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
SAN PABLO Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
2121 Yale Road #203 Denver Block, Monte Iannini 510-531-1100		380/2BA	1-4-30	\$169,000
VALLEJO Address & Realty		Size	Hours	Price
131 Sunrise Way Daisy Tam, Prudential 510-531-1100		180/1BA	1-4-30	\$169,000

Broker's PMI requirement makes sense

By George Karvel
Knight Ridder newspapers
Q I recently bought a house from a builder for \$131,000. It was still under construction, but by the time I went to closing it was appraised at \$140,000. I borrowed \$111,000 from a mortgage broker.

With the current value of the house I have more than 20 percent in it and have been trying to get the mortgage company to take off the PMI. They tell me they must use the selling price or the current value, and they have opted to use the selling price to calculate the ratio. I have contacted the FTC trying to get a clear interpretation of the Homeowner's Protection Act, but I can only get people there who are not sure and tell me to contact HUD ... who sends me elsewhere. I have been in touch with the state at-

torney general's office, but they tell me there are no state laws governing this.

The mortgage company says I must make the PMI payments for two years to prove I have a good payment record, and then I will have to have the house reappraised. If I had bought the house for \$1 and gone to the bank to get a \$1 loan, would that mean I owed 100 percent on it? I feel I am paying \$30 a month for nothing and really want this taken off. Is there someone I can get in touch with (other than an attorney) that can tell me what the law actually says?

A: Just because your home was appraised for \$140,000 doesn't mean it could be sold for \$140,000. Any given appraisal has done well if the fair market value lies within plus or minus 5 percent of appraised value. Therefore, your home may be

worth \$133,000 to \$147,000. Further, your recent purchase price is the best indicator of fair market value — \$131,000.

You have a 20 percent equity only if the home is worth more than \$138,750. From the lender's point of view there is a reasonable possibility that the home is not worth \$138,750.

I find it reasonable for the mortgage company to require you to maintain private mortgage insurance (PMI) for two years. By that time your property should have appreciated sufficiently to allow them to allow you to drop your PMI. The only other alternative is to engage an attorney to assist you. The cost of an attorney will most likely be greater than two years of PMI payments at \$30 per month.

Q: I am two weeks away from closing on my first home and I do not want the informa-

tion published in the paper (for safety reasons). How do I go about ensuring that my purchase information is not listed in the paper?

A: Normally, information regarding the purchase of a home is not published in the paper. I wouldn't be concerned.

All public information such as a recorded mortgage, contract for deed or certificate of real estate value may be published without consent. (Newspapers such as the Times list sales in this section each week under "Transactions.")

The only way to avoid that information from becoming public is not to record the documents. Unfortunately, recordation is either required by the lender (otherwise they won't make the mortgage loan) or by law. The only other means is to avoid transactions that make such information publicly available.

House hunting? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B12



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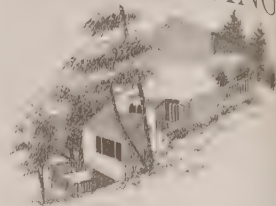


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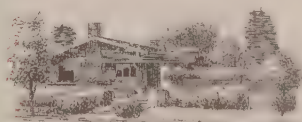
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MILLION DOLLAR PANORAMIC VIEWS \$675,000
Are what you will find from almost every room of this stunning contemporary. It sits high in the hills allowing for ample privacy and offers many extras. Including Living Room with brick FP, built-in speakers and deck, and a huge rumpus room also opening to its own deck. 20 Villanova Dr. Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400



NEW LISTING! \$525,000
Charming brown shingle on a private cul-de-sac. Beautifully maintained and offers in-lay hardwood floors, wonderful built-ins, sunfilled breakfast room, and an adorable guest cottage. Minutes to Piedmont Ave. 4449 Pleasant Valley Ct. Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400

Open Sunday 3/3



ONE-LEVEL HOME IN QUIET SETTING \$495,000
5 Bedrooms, 2 Baths at top of Oakland Hills. Beautiful hardwood floors, skylights, large windows, family room with fireplace. Private, partly-level yard with greenbelt-like backdrop. 8000 Surrey Lane Jim Schubert 510-339-4000



1ST OPEN-SUNNY DISPOSITION \$385,000
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By Appointment

DIABLO VIEWS ABOUNDING \$829,000
Own the whole sky from your private pool and spa. This quiet Cimarron Hills charmer has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and vaulted ceilings. Brand new to market. Priced to move! Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

THE CHARM OF OLD DIABLO \$738,950
3 bedroom, 3.5 bath residence features well-appointed kitchen w/ cherry-finished cabinets, granite counters, gas range and views of old oaks. Possible au pair set-up with French doors to private garden entrance. Spacious living room with views of Mt. Diablo. Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

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WALK TO LAKE MERRITT \$478,000
Charming Traditional. Spacious 3 Br/ 2 Ba. Huge lot. Need TLC. Walk to lake, close to transportation. Could be a beauty fixed up. Teresa Chan 510-339-4000

CHARMING IS JUST THE BEGINNING... \$305,000
Light and bright living room with marble fireplace, large master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi tub, lagoon with sparkling pool, walk or ride your bike to Bishop Ranch. Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



CLASSIC CRAFTSMAN COTTAGE \$295,000
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By Appointment



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A family that wrestles together, wins together

Albany's Griffins grappling with North Coast success

By Bill Kolb
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — With brothers Kyle and Tyson Griffin advancing safely into Saturday's semifinal matches at the North Coast Section wrestling championships at the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center, the Albany High School wrestling team was on target to make next week's state tournament in Stockton a family affair. The top three wrestlers in each weight class from NCS advance to state.

Unfortunately for the Cougars, Kyle, the No. 5 seed, ran into No. 1 seed Nick Orlando from Pittsburg in the 154-pound semifinal, and pushed Orlando to the limit only to fall 4-3. Orlando, who hadn't lost to an NCS opponent all season — amassing a 38-1 overall record entering the tournament — eventually lost 8-4 to Darrin Kirby of McKinleyville in the final.

"Kyle almost had a takeover there at the end," Albany coach Kermit Bankson said after the

match. "That could have made the difference."

The disappointment of the loss carried over into the consolation bracket, as Kyle then fell in double overtime to Santa Rosa's Johnny Vera, who came in as the seventh seed. Griffin rebounded to take home fifth-place honors, however, scrambling to a hard-fought 3-1 victory over Petaluma's Stephen Butts.

"He's still got two more years," Tyson Griffin said of his sophomore brother.

But for Tyson, a senior, this was the last hurrah — and he made the most of it, upsetting No. 2 seed Chris Crow of San Leandro in his 147-pound semifinal match. Griffin entered the tournament seeded No. 3, but all expectations were that Crow would meet No. 1 Matthew Chatelein from Amador Valley in the championship final. Crow and Chatelein did eventually meet, but in the third-place match. Crow won that match 3-2 to move on to state.

"I was looking forward to meeting the two guys I hadn't seen in my bracket (Crow and Chatelein), but the No. 1 lost," a breathless Tyson Griffin said after topping Crow 5-3. "I'll take on whoever's there, and whatever happens, hap-

pens. That's the nature of the beast. With the No. 1 seed out I guess I'm the favorite. It's easier being the underdog. You've got nothing to lose."

Despite his earlier heroics, Tyson met his match in the final, and was unable to walk away with an individual NCS crown.

Liberty's Kip Klingheim, who knocked off Chatelein from his No. 5 seed to reach the final, got too far ahead of Griffin in the championship match, and put him away 12-5.

"Going to state was my first goal," Tyson Griffin said after the final. "But I wanted to win NCS, and I didn't win. I'm a little disappointed right now. Things don't go your way sometimes, but that's the way it goes."

"I'm really happy for both those guys," Bankson said of the brothers. "They've wrestled well."

Despite the loss in the final, Griffin still will make the trip to the University of the Pacific next weekend, a trip he has made before — as a spectator.

"The whole family is going," Griffin said with a grin. "We all went last year to watch. It's definitely better to be on the mat."

Boys NCS

FROM PAGE C1

Dowd, for its part, never could draw that fifth foul, as Berkeley crept its way back into the game.

The Dragons ran into some trouble themselves when sophomore post Dane Welsh drew two quick fouls to start the final period, fouling out on the second with 5:43 left.

With Welsh gone, fellow sophomore Tommy Arnold moved into the middle for O'Dowd and stepped up big-time, scoring all three of his field goals within a three-minute span.

Arnold's baskets were particularly clutch, as Berkeley had closed within two points with just under five minutes left. Consecutive baskets by Arnold, though, opened 43-37 cushion with about four minutes to play.

Berkeley, however, wasn't about to let its season go down without a fight. Hopes of Berkeley fans rose even higher when Burns knotted the score at 45-45 with 1:05 remaining on the clock.

But when Brutocao-Kemp, fouled in the act of shooting a 3-

point attempt, sank all his free throws, the Dragons were back up 48-45 with 47 seconds left.

A Shaun Burl basket trimmed O'Dowd's lead back down to one point 10 seconds later, setting the stage for a most dramatic finish.

"That's what basketball is about," Bryant said. "Two great teams in the NCS."

Once again, the NCS Division I boys playoffs had come through with a most exciting and memorable game.

Postgame

FOUL STUFF: Burns wasn't the only Yellow Jacket in foul trouble. Before the end of the game, both Franklin and Dontae Hall each collected his fourth foul. Like Burns, neither fouled out.

Welsh, again, did foul out for O'Dowd. But the fifth one was particularly controversial, a player control foul on the offensive end that looked like a flop on the part of the Berkeley player.

MORE SCORING STATS: Brutocao-Kemp finished with nine points for O'Dowd, six of them coming on a pair of 3-point

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Scoreboard

Highlights: SM — Knights 9 rebounds, Sharon 5 rebounds, 5 assists; Freeman 5 assists; Garapine 7 rebounds, A — Witherspoon 13 rebounds, Rob 6 rebounds

PREP BASEBALL

Nonleague
El Cerrito 12, John Swett 6

John Swett 000 112 2 — 6 8 2
El Cerrito 021 207 1 — 12 11 5

Highlights: Santos (5) and Santos, Jimenez (5); Greg Murray, Daniel Grun (5), Tristan Chavira (7) and Ryan De La Rosa, W. Murray (1-0), L. Jimenez, 2B; Murray (EC) 2, David Greenstein (EC) 2, Randy Minix (EC), James Cananor (EC), Records: John Swett 2-1, El Cerrito 2-0.

Highlights: EC — Murray 4 IP, 3-for-4, 2 RBI; Greenstein 3-for-4, 2 runs, 4 RBI; Cannon 1-for-1, 2 RBI.

Camplando 5, St. Mary's 3

Camplando 000 021 6 — 5 4 2
St. Mary's 001 001 1 — 3 3 1

Chris Stanley, Jeff Reekers (3), Pat Galligan (5), Jeff Stevens (6) and Greg Bohay, Steve Depasari, Tyler Nation (7) and Sean Ayres, Ryan Bahado-Singh, W. Stevens, L. Depasari (1-1), 2B; Chase Moore (SM), HR; Moore (SM) 4th inn., one on, Stevens 0 5th inn., one on, Records: St. Mary's 1-1, Camplando 2-1.

Pineole Valley 5, Albany 0

Albany 000 000 0 — 0 3 3
Pineole Valley 001 211 0 — 5 5 2

Y. Wu, Thomas Todd (3) and Ben Gordon, Kurt Koehler, R. Fentadilla (3) and Ryan Kins, WP; Koehler 1-0, LP; Worth 0-1, 2B; Kiss (PV), Justin Robinson (PV) 4th inn., one on, Stevens 0 5th inn., one on, Records: St. Mary's 1-1, Camplando 2-1.

Pineole Valley 5, Albany 0

Albany 000 000 0 — 0 3 3
Pineole Valley 001 211 0 — 5 5 2

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PREP GIRLS

NCS Division I
First round
Berkeley 72, Mission San Jose 30

MISSION SAN JOSE (14-13)
Vickie Chan 0-1-2-1, Laura Nelson 0-0-0, Alex Ralchman 3-1-2-7, Chrissy Fralo 2-2-5, Sarah Berch 1-0-0-2, Marissa Angel 1-2-3, Bonnie Chen 1-0-0-3, Renee Belen 2-0-6, Nicole Burnett 1-0-0-2, Barbara Olson 0-0-0-1, Totals 11-5-3-30

BERKELEY (20-8)
Angeela Hutton 10-0-2-2, Shaquita Brown 0-1-2-1, Natasha Bailey 1-0-2, Katelyn Seabrook 4-0-0-8, Sabrina Kays 3-2-8, Lauren Chambers 3-0-2-5, Denisha Wright 4-0-3-12, Michi Yamamoto 2-0-0-5, Myette Anderson 1-0-2, Arlene Vaughn 1-0-2, Kimi Soofko 1-0-0-3, Britany Moore 0-0-0-0, Amber Cox 0-0-0-0, Britany Murtas 0-0-0-0, Wynne Butler 0-0-0-0, Totals 20-8-7-72

Mission San Jose 8 9 10-30
Berkeley 23 22 16 11-72

Final prep winter sports standings

Basketball

ACCAL boys

Berkeley 13 1 —
Pineole Valley 13 1 —
Encinal 8 6 5 —
Alameda 7 7 6 —
El Cerrito 7 7 6 —
Richmond 3 11 9 —
Hercules 0 14 13 —

ACCAL girls

Encinal 10 0 —
Alameda 7 3 3 —
Pineole Valley 6 4 4 —
De Anza 4 6 6 —
El Cerrito 3 7 7 —
Richmond 0 10 10 —

BSAL boys

St. Mary's 10 2 —
Kennedy 9 4 5 —
Salesian 9 3 2 1/2 —
St. Joseph 8 3 3 —
St. Patrick 5 7 6 1/2 —
Piedmont 4 7 7 —
St. Elizabeth 3 8 8 —
Albany 2 10 9 1/2 —
John Swett 0 12 11 1/2 —

BSAL girls

St. Mary's 13 0 —
Kennedy 12 1 1 —
Holy Names 9 4 5 —
St. Patrick 7 6 5 —
Salesian 7 6 6 —
John Swett 3 10 10 —
St. Joseph 3 10 10 —
Albany 1 12 12 —
St. Elizabeth 1 12 12 —

Soccer

ACCAL boys

Berkeley 12 1 1 37
Richmond 11 1 2 35
El Cerrito 8 5 2 25
Alameda 7 4 1 23
Encinal 5 8 1 18
De Anza 5 8 0 15
Pineole Valley 3 10 1 10
Hercules 0 13 0 0

ACCAL girls

Berkeley 14 0 0 42
Richmond 9 4 1 28
El Cerrito 8 4 2 26
Alameda 7 3 4 25
Pineole Valley 8 5 1 25
Encinal 3 10 1 10
De Anza 1 11 2 5
Hercules 0 13 1 1

BSAL boys

Kennedy 6 1 2 20
St. Mary's 6 1 2 20
Piedmont 5 1 3 18
Berean Christian 5 2 2 17
St. Patrick 5 2 2 17
St. Joseph 4 3 2 14
Salesian 4 4 1 13
Albany 2 7 0 6
John Swett 0 8 1 1
St. Elizabeth 0 8 1 1

BSAL girls

Piedmont 9 0 0 27
Salesian 8 1 0 24
Berean Christian 7 2 0 21
St. Mary's 6 3 0 18
Holy Names 6 3 0 15
St. Joseph 4 5 0 12
Albany 2 6 1 7
St. Patrick 2 7 0 6
John Swett 1 7 1 4
Kennedy 0 9 0 0

BSAL boys

Kennedy 13 0 —
St. Mary's 12 1 1 —
Holy Names 9 4 5 —
St. Patrick 7 6 5 —
Salesian 7 6 6 —
John Swett 3 10 10 —
St. Joseph 3 10 10 —
Albany 1 12 12 —
St. Elizabeth 1 12 12 —

BSAL girls

Piedmont 9 0 0 27
Salesian 8 1 0 24
Berean Christian 7 2 0 21
St. Mary's 6 3 0 18
Holy Names 6 3 0 15
St. Joseph 4 5 0 12
Albany 2 6 1 7
St. Patrick 2 7 0 6
John Swett 1 7 1 4
Kennedy 0 9 0 0

BSAL boys

Kennedy 13 0 —
St. Mary's 12 1 1 —
Holy Names 9 4 5 —
St. Patrick 7 6 5 —
Salesian 7 6 6 —
John Swett 3 10 10 —
St. Joseph 3 10 10 —
Albany 1 12 12 —
St. Elizabeth 1 12 12 —

BSAL girls

Piedmont 9 0 0 27
Salesian 8 1 0 24
Berean Christian 7 2 0 21
St. Mary's 6 3 0 18
Holy Names 6 3 0 15
St. Joseph 4 5 0 12
Albany 2 6 1 7
St. Patrick 2 7 0 6
John Swett 1 7 1 4
Kennedy 0 9 0 0

By Steve Dulas
STAFF WRITER

THE BAYS

SAN PABLO: Though an occasional sturgeon is popping up, the best action on the bay is around the Pump House. But even the sturgeon party boats are moving from the Pump House to the Napa River, said Roger Nye of Norm's Bait & Tackle.

"Most are being caught off the flat-top, past the (Highway) 37 bridge and into the Napa River," he said.

Mike Miles brought a 68-inch, 48-pound sturgeon into Norm's, and Joe Oswald brought in a 44-pound sturgeon caught in the Napa River. Grass shrimp, pile worms and eel are the top baits.

Shore anglers are catching perch off the Berkeley Pier and around rocky points, and halibut are starting to show up in the flats again.

SUISUN BAY: Skipper Jim Smith on the Happy Hooker has the hard luck story of the week. After one of his anglers caught a 72-inch sturgeon, someone else lost a keeper when the fish spit out the hook in mid-air. What would have been the third keeper of the day got away when the net, weakened by the first fish, ripped, Smith said.

"The fish are thicker, there's more of them, and they're starting to bite," Smith said.

The whole area, from the Benicia Bridge and the Mothball Fleet to Chain Island, seems to be thick with sturgeon and stripers.

David DeHerrera of Placerville checked in at Martinez Bait & Tackle with a 62.5-inch, 61-pound sturgeon and 24-inch striper he caught last Saturday at the Mothball Fleet. Tim Stubbs of Suisun brought in a 68.2-pound sturgeon the same day, and caught in the same area. Dennis Minton of Antioch landed 63-inch, 54-pound sturgeon out there, one of nine sturgeon weighed in that shop that day, Jorge Santiago said.

While a couple of sturgeon were brought in to McAvoy's, the big news was the improved striper bite. Tony Lopez of McAvoy's said. Anglers are using bullheads at the Firing Line and Garnet Point to get stripers up to 32 pounds, caught by David Haro.

"But it's kind of hard to get bullheads right now," Lopez said.

Whether it's a bullhead or a minnow, the recommended technique is to wait at least 15 to 20 seconds after the initial strike before setting the hook, Lopez said.

Barry Canavaro usually fishes Montezuma Slough, but he moved to Middle Ground last weekend; his anglers accounted for a couple of sturgeon each day.

Tran Tuan weighed in a 34.5-pound sturgeon at Mello's in Antioch after catching it below the Benicia Bridge. Mike Hamilton brought in two small keepers last week, a 49.75-inch fish caught Saturday and a 47.5-inch fish caught Monday. Other notable catches included a 49.9-pounder caught by Jose Deanoa at Buoy 31, and a 46.6-pound sturgeon caught by Jim Shaffer in Broad Slough.

The best time is in the morning, at the end of the outgoing tide and the start of the incoming, Canavaro said.

Oakley's Lee O'Bryan caught a 60-pound sturgeon on shad at Sherman Island. Pete Webb of Antioch landed a 65-pound sturgeon at Garnet Point. In Honker Bay, Johnny Abeneola hauled in an 80-pound fish on grass shrimp.

The fishing trip of the week had to be by Paul Larossee of Antioch, who weighed in a 65-pound sturgeon and stripers of 5 and 10 pounds at Gotohal Bay.

It seems like just about anyone can catch one right now — 11-year-old Ashley Brookshire caught a 56-pound sturgeon, which was bigger than she, said Do Duong of Dock Side in Pittsburg.

Dock Side now is selling tickets for a sturgeon/striper derby, March 29-30. Tickets are \$20 per person. Call Dock Side, 925-252-0151, for more information.

For those without a boat, take heart. Duane Kanikavua caught an 18-inch, 4-pound black bass in the

Bay Area fishing report

Antioch Marina.
THE RIVERS

SACRAMENTO RIVER, COLLINSVILLE TO ISLETON: Norm Book of San Jose landed a 31-pound striper here, the same area where Gordon Brooks caught a 67-inch, 80-pound sturgeon. Trollers have been scoring on stripers in Steamboat Slough, around the Old Dairy and near the Power Lines. Gary Lawce of Lodi hooked a 78-pound sturgeon just below the Rio Vista Bridge, then caught a 48-pounder the next day. Wayne and Diane Luedka of Modesto caught a 28-pound sturgeon and a 10-pound striper at Decker Island.

SACRAMENTO RIVER, REDDING TO ANDERSON: Early morning and late afternoon are the best times, but fishing for rainbows is still only fair. Fishing is all catch-and-release.

THE DELTA

Anglers were nearly shoulder to shoulder on the Antioch Fishing Pier below the Antioch Bridge last week-end, because black bass are stirring. Chris Moore of Pittsburg caught a 2.75-pound black bass there last Friday. Tuesday evening, Ed Guillory of Antioch caught four black bass there, from 1.75 to 3.14 pounds. Ken Botelho of Gotohal Bay estimated the crowd on the pier Sunday at between 150 and 200.

Bill and Noreen Timmons of Brentwood caught two limits of black bass, with a total weight of 38 pounds, along the Big Break shoreline. Lamia Opselski landed a couple of 2-pound fish at Orwood Resort, then got a 7-pound bass in Holland Tract.

Contae Winbush of Oakland landed a 7 1/2-pound black bass, after getting a little instruction from Chuck Phillipart at Delta Sportsman.

Joe Miller caught a 32-pound striper in Broad Slough. Taylor Slough produced a 20-pound striper for Keith Duncan and a 15-pounder for Joe and Angie Miller. Both were using jumbo minnows.

THE LAKES

SAN PABLO RESERVOIR, EL SOBRANTE: It's known for trout, but this lake is producing trophy trout. So far, six largemouth bass, up to 17 pounds, have been taken.

The biggest is a 17-pound, 3-ounce monster caught by Erik Patzner of Dublin on a Slammer in Sather Canyon. Rob Belloni of Fremont caught nearly 26 pounds of fish in one trip — a 13.2 bass caught in the middle of the lake and a 12.7 bass hooked in Scow Canyon. Both bit on a jig. Other trophy-size bass were caught by Bob Miller of Concord, 11.2 in Sather Canyon; Jess Sahota of San Ramon, 11-11 in the Main Rec area; and by Don Govan of Oakland, 16-8 in the Preserve. Patzner was 14 ounces short of the lake record. Notable trout catches were by Bob Miller of Concord, 11.2 in Sather Canyon; Keith Getting of Pacheco, 5-5.5 in Scow Canyon; Matt Chun of San Pablo, 5-7 in the Main Rec; Norwood Allen of Orinda, 7-8 at the Rock Wall; Ruben Maravilla of Richmond, 5-12 in Scow Canyon; and Al Parnoff of Walnut

Anglers are still averaging 20 pounds a week, with a few trout to 5 pounds. Danville anglers Oscar S. Venton and Juan Zapata landed a 13.2-pound bass in the middle of the lake. Powerbait in the south end, and Huchings of Concord, Melvin Gler Grant Davis and Calvin Williams, and 13-year-old Mike of San Jose all reported catching trout. Wayne Firth of Walnut landed a 4-pound black bass fishing pier.

LAKE CAMANCHUE, BRENDA: Troll, troll more more there. That's the secret here. Anglers are getting trout, to 6 pounds, at the marina entrances and along the shore. Shore anglers need to be patient in early — use live worms or Powerbait and get as good as possible.

Moving on

FROM PAGE C1

"(Mission San Jose) hustled, but they didn't have a lot of shooters," said Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura, who made five-player substitutions throughout the game. "We basically put a lot of pressure on their perimeter. They didn't have an inside game to contain (Sabrina) Keys."

The Purdue-bound Keys finished with eight points, six rebounds and five steals in 16 minutes of action.

Teammate Angelita Hutton led all scorers with 22 points in less than 15 minutes of action.

Berkeley (20-8) produced 10 steals in the first quarter and 26 in the game. Mission San Jose fell to 14-13 with the loss.

BSAL

FROM PAGE C1

Sharper led the scoring with 20 points. Teammate DaShawn Freeman added 11.

In semifinal action, the Panthers topped the St. Joseph Notre Dame Pilots 69-61 on Feb. 21. Sharper, who knocked down a trio of 3-pointers, and Chase Moore had 20 points each in the win. Freeman recorded 11 assists and four rebounds; Simon Knight pulled down eight rebounds and Moore added seven rebounds to the winning cause.

Arts

BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Monica and Bill Lewinsky On HBO

Never thought I'd say this, but I think I was wrong about Monica Lewinsky. My sense of her was shaped by years of observing the media frenzy over her White House "adventures" with Bill Clinton. I perceived Monica, as I have since, as a woman who was marginalized as a Clinton-hating zealot by the Clinton-hating right, as a preternaturally ambitious vulgarian from the hills. (Such people are meant to exist.)

In other words, I thought I was wrong. But after watching HBO's high-profile "show" this Sunday night at 10, "Monica and Bill," I suspect I was wrong about Lewinsky far too.

Simply put, Clinton's affair with Lewinsky gave these two pit bulls the loaded gun they needed to point at each other.

Having watched Sunday's special in which Lewinsky finally gets to tell her side of the story outside the courtroom pressure cooker, I can begin to appreciate what went through — admit it, I hadn't given it much thought until now. (I can almost hear the scoffing from Clinton diehards. But I note that I voted for Bill Clinton and probably would have despised his appalling, immature behavior.)

Watching Sunday's show, a woman friend who's a Democrat and who I've known since Clinton twice. The woman, a mother of two, told me, "She was naive and immature." I pretty much says it all. At one point, Lewinsky, who has a few tough questions to answer — a surprising sympathetic group of college students — was asked if she had any concerns about Clinton's wife and daughter. She was engaged in this delicate dance.

Lewinsky replies soberly, "I didn't want anyone to ask him to effect his behavior had on me." Good point. Lewinsky, I now feel after watching Sunday's revealing show, was neither a schemer nor a schemer. She fell victim to an enormous personal charm. ("I knew he was irresistible, but he was cool") and paid an enormous price for it.

Monica and Bill, 20-year-olds make mistakes in life. They just make them in a media political fishbowl.

What's NOT Reported: A lot of you are probably confused now that my being sympathetic to Monica means I'm not a vast right-wing conspiracy. But read on.

When it's the big stories — Clinton being covered — the media, the trials, human rights in Georgia, etc. often get lost — that are far more important and noteworthy. Recent examples stand

in the post-9/11 avalanche coverage of the Arab world and the kidnapping of Danny Pearl, two stories have zeroed out the important constant.

Washington Post columnist Michael Schuman did this week, "Through the on-camera Islamic world, anti-Semitism has become both a threat and a shield."

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JESSICA HIRD is one of the stars of Impact Theatre's "Impact Briefs 5: The East Bay Hit."

Choose from a bountiful smorgasbord of stage fare

You couldn't have a better example of the dazzling diversity of live theatrical offerings in the East Bay just about every weekend than the bill of fare spread out today. Here are three quick, under-the-gun reminders about shows opening tonight.

■ UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies premieres a new work, "Divine Comedy: The Dante Project (A Sacred Poem)," at 8 p.m. in the Zellerbach Playhouse on the UC Berkeley campus.

■ "Impact Briefs 5: The East Bay Hit" starts at 8 a.m. at La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley.

■ At the same hour, "The Unexpected Guest" begins a short run at Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito.

Don't expect the Dante offering to be the same epic poem you plowed through in school. This is a comic twisting of the classic trip through Hell, Purgatory and Paradise, but also offering a contemporary interpretation of the characters and language.



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

How different is it? Well, for openers, this version, unlike the original, has a motorcycle and sidecar speeding over the Marsh of Styx, a flying bathtub touring the solar system, and a traveler passing through a wall of fire.

The play is written and directed by Gary Graves, with lighting by nationally recognized designer Jack Carpenter. The Dante Project was developed in a class on the Joint Stock Method, taught by Graves during the fall 2001 semester at UC Berkeley.

"Divine Comedy" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays;

Sundays at 2 p.m., through March 10. Tickets are \$12 general, \$8 for UC Berkeley faculty and staff, and \$6 for seniors and students. Call toll-free at 866-468-3399 or order online at www.ticketweb.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the box office one hour before showtime.

"Briefs 5," directed by Sarah O'Connell, is Impact Theatre's fifth annual festival of short plays — all of them centering around life in the Bay Area.

Andrew Shemin contributes "Hello, Planet Berkeley!" wherein a dubiously talented stand-up comedian fresh off the bus tries to pass himself off as a local.

Local playwright Cheshire Dave Beckerman's "The Finest Poet" takes us to a poetry slam at La Val's.

Seattle's Bret Fetzer and Juliet Waller trot out "Good Dog" about a young man who feels a need to impersonate a blind man's dog.

New Yorker Michael Maiello offers "The Oakland Coffee

Party" about the evils of coffee drinking. (Oh, for Peet's sake is there no end to this frivolity? But I'm sure Michael won't stoop so low with a pun like that.)

Elizabeth Bernstein, another local playwright, shows us the bizarre nature of corporate culture in "Shake," a new Bay Area resident being treated to her first earthquake.

"The Last Hit" by Melissa Hillman examines the patriotic use of controlled substances.

And rounding out the evening of seven shows — world premieres, all; and all running 10 minutes or under — is an adaptation of Euripides' "The Bacchae" by Impact's own Alyssa Bostwick and Jessica Hird.

"Impact Briefs 5: The East Bay Hit" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays through March 30. Tickets are \$12 general and \$7 for students and Theatre Bay Area members. Call 510-464-4468 or e-mail ticket@bayareatheatre.org.

See TUCKER, Page C5

'Soldiers' glosses over politics of the war

■ Vietnam-era film has its good points, but doesn't have the staying power for its more-than-two-hour running time

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

On the surface, the serviceable, only intermittently schmaltzy "We Were Soldiers" is not something to get hugely worked up about. It's "Braveheart" goes to Vietnam, with Mel Gibson at the helm as a fearless leader of men and "Braveheart" writer Randall Wallace moving behind a blood-spattered camera to take the director's chair.

But in the larger scheme of things, "We Were Soldiers," which focuses on 1965's battle of Ia Drang, the first major ground battle between the North Vietnamese and Americans, signals an unsettling shift in Vietnam's place in our cinematic culture. After years playing the part of our national guilt trip, Vietnam may now be the new World War II, a venue for recounting heroic battles, a place to blink back tears and marvel at the bravery of soldiers.

At Ia Drang, a relatively small group of men — 400 soldiers — led by Lt. Colonel Harold "Hal" Moore (Gibson), drove roughly 4,000 members of the North Vietnamese Army out of a mountain hideout through a combination of persistence, will power, superior ammunition and helpful helicopters. Nearly half the Vietnamese soldiers died. It's the first film in ages, since perhaps 1968's "The Green Berets," in which America is allowed any sense of triumph in regard to the conflict, albeit a small one.

The main reason to lament about this is that it raises the fear that a great cinematic age is not just dead, but perhaps on its way



MEL GIBSON, with Sam Elliott as his right-hand man, leads his troops into battle.

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "We Were Soldiers"

■ **STARRING:** Mel Gibson, Sam Elliott, Barry Pepper, Madeleine Stowe, Chris Klein, Keri Russell, Greg Kinnear

■ **RATING:** R (sustained scenes of graphic war violence and for language)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 18 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** C

to being forgotten. As an event, as a state of mind, Vietnam was absolutely revolutionary, the cornerstone of a true modernity of cinema. It reshaped a generation of filmmakers and audiences to look within and without in a different light. On film, Vietnam has

taught us cynicism about ourselves, but it also taught us valuable lessons. Being presented now with a surprisingly old-fashioned picture about Vietnam such as "We Were Soldiers" makes us wonder, are those lessons faded? And if so, what does that mean about this point in our political/cultural history? Movies reflect our national consciousness, but they also help create it.

"We Were Soldiers" is not revisionist by any means, but it does gloss over American motivations for getting involved. It's astonishing to watch an entire movie about Vietnam that doesn't mention communism. Wallace has approached this as a soldiers' story only, and while their bravery is to be reckoned with, it is depressing to see politics skimmed off the conflict like fat off chicken stock, especially when you consider that we've al-

ready seen so many rich and real films about the helpless despair of Vietnam, made by the likes of Francis Ford Coppola, Stanley Kubrick and Oliver Stone.

That's not to accuse "We Were Soldiers" of whitewashing the war or what was to come. At the end of the film, there's a shot of a North Vietnamese commander fingering an American flag on the scorched battlefield and expressing his fear, in Vietnamese, that the Americans will interpret their survival at Ia Drang as a victory, that the war will become an American war. (If that sounds at all like the Japanese commander's speech in "Pearl Harbor" about the attack awakening a sleeping giant, that's because Randall Wallace wrote both movies.)

"We Were Soldiers" intends to

EVENTS

General

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY — MAIN LIBRARY — West Auditorium, 124 14th St. (510) 238-3136.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AT OAKLAND — Elaine Brown, March 1, 6:30 p.m. The former head of the Black Panther Party discusses her book "The Condemnation of Little B." 659 14th St. (510) 637-0200.

DIMOND BRANCH — "Internet Workshops," Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 3565 Fruitvale Ave. (510) 482-7844.

GOLDEN GATE BRANCH — 5606 San Pablo Ave. (510) 597-5023.

WEST OAKLAND BRANCH — "Chess Workshop for Children," Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. 1801 Adeline St. (510) 597-5049.

Free. Oakland. (510) 238-3134 or www.oaklandlibrary.org

THE STARRY PLOUGH — "The Berkeley Poetry Slam," Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. Poets should arrive at 7:30 p.m. to sign up. The first Wednesday of the month is "Chicken Grease" hosted by Nazelah Jamison and Karen Ladson with spinning by DJ Funklor; all other Wednesdays are "The Berkeley Slam" hosted by Charles Ellik and dani euryome with music by Three Blind Mice. For ages 21 and over after 10 p.m. \$5. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 435-1665.

PARAMOUNT MOVIE CLASSICS SERIES — ongoing. The evening includes a classic movie, walk-in music from the Wurlitzer organ, a newsreel, cartoon, movie previews and the Paramount's prize giveaway game "Dec-O-Win." Doors open at 7 p.m. to allow attendees a chance to get a glass of wine before the show. "North by Northwest" (1959), March 1, 8 p.m. The Al-fred Hitchcock espionage thriller starring Cary Grant and Eva Marie-Saint. \$5. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400 or (925) 762-7277.

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION — "Biblical Preaching in Babel — Preaching in a Post-Christian World," March 1, 9 a.m. A lecture by Barbara Lundblad of Union Seminary, New York. Registration required. Free; \$10 lunch. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Chapel, 2770 Marin Ave., Berkeley. (510) 524-5264.

GOLDEN GATE GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY TRAVEL FILM SERIES — "Iceland!" Enjoy the wonders of Iceland's birdlife, waterfalls, geysers, active volcanoes and the island nation's capital, Reykjavik. March 2, 2 p.m.: At Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. \$9 general; \$4.50 youths age 14 and under. (800) 247-GGGS.

OAKLAND MUSEUM WOMEN'S BOARD — "The 42nd Annual White Elephant Sale," March 2 and March 3. Featuring new and slightly used sale items donated and sold at bargain prices, including art, antiques, books, clothing, shoes, furniture, household items and more. Free. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oakland Estuary, 333 Lancaster St., Oakland. (510) 536-6800.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE — Michael Moore, March 6, 8 p.m. Moore will speak on his new book "Stupid White Men And Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation." \$12 to \$15. Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. (510) 848-6767 ext. 611 or www.kpfa.org

CAL PERFORMANCES — Laurie Anderson, March 8 and March 9, 8 p.m. Avant-garde musician and performance artist brings reads from her new solo work "Happiness." \$20 to \$42. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

Dance

CAL PERFORMANCES — "Kusum Africa," March 1 and March 2, 7 p.m. A world premiere showcase of new African choreography with 60 artists

See SOLDIERS, Page C5

See EVENTS, Page C5

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...pected Guest."
...to this column last
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...have to catch it
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...8 p.m. Fridays and
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...of the British hit com-
...Memory of Water,"
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...ennement at Theatre-
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diers

...PAGE C3
...ing for its entire two hour
...minute length, but only
...its goal for about a third
...the rest of it is lit-
...th-hey-Isn't this poignant
...many involving cute
...Klein playing a noble
...and (and new father)
...graphic war violence
...brain just shuts down.
...are some fine moments,
...and good performances
...Greg Kinnear does-
...like the first person
...as a helicopter pilot,
...just fine. So is Sam El-

reviews

...PAGE C4
...lives change after their
...Sh) gets involved in a po-
...tious relationship.
...almost certainly get an
...vation for her unreli-
...s, performance, and first-
...and Field has made a
...erest. Black, but one of
...— M. Pols. (R: some
...language.) 2 hours, 10

FOR BEGINNERS:

...of surprises, the latest offer-
...June 95, the Danish film
...more known for being dis-
...for being cheery, intro-
...scept of love and happi-
...movement. Six lonely
...teach lessons one winter
...and begin, tentatively,
...ward each other. Not a
...flick, though; it's got
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...ed, addiction, fetal alcohol
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...the froth of love and
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...more murky and drab. But
...the heart to warm us
...the dull of winter. — M. Pols.
...some sexuality.) 1
...hours A-

John Q.

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...ing and so soaked with
...almost forget the sheer,
...ness of his script. Yet
...he the theater and get
...the cinematic design in-
...Denzel Washington,
...your goodwill has been
...ed. As John Quincy
...Washington is a good hus-
...ber barely making ends
...we can't afford to pay for
...s heart transplant,
...the hospital emergency room
...ch-riden script squan-
...er (see Washington,
...James Woods, Anne
...and the vibrant moral drama
...reaching others' lives to
...t. It's not just the medical
...s wrong with America.
...PG-13: violence, language,
...atic elements.) 1 hour, 58

The discovery of a corpse

...for this movie, though it
...a police thriller as it is a
...ological investigation
...and difficulties of mar-
...on focuses on four couples,
...top-lined by Anthony
...Rush and Barbara
...don't lack for the intensity
...make its story convinc-
...we eventually get the in-
...ness. Little of it comes to
...er, "Lantana" feeds us
...thoughtful drama makes it
...how hard it is to come by
...comfort in this life, but
...why we can't give up
...— K. Turan. (R: lan-
...suality.) 2 hours. A-

THE FIRST BALL

...the first half of director
...a movie like a sheet of
...ness of a single mother
...er (Sean Connors) and a
...most who has just realized
...to live for (Billy Bob
...Thorn) are
...ing as a pair of unlikely
...and beautiful movie.
...can never stop, it does
...ing one of the most deli-
...re stones we've seen
...ing "Waking" — M. Pols.
...content language,
...45 minutes A-

MAN PROPHETIES:

...The
...cept has been taken
...a non-fiction book
...accidents how, in the
...up to a horrendous
...over the Ohio River in

Webster St., Oakland.

This is a superb ensemble piece about three grown sisters reunited for their mother's funeral in the family home in north Yorkshire. A comedy about a funeral homecoming? Indeed it is — "in a deliciously dead, peculiarly British genre," says Clive Chafer, director of the show and artistic director of the newly revived Theatre-FIRST.

Clive should know. He directed another British import, "Love and Understanding," last fall. So far it has won two awards: Dean Goodman Choice Awards for Best Ensemble Acting and Best Direction. He also directed "The Merchant of Venice" at The Globe Theatre in London and at Exeter University where he was awarded the first Master of Fine Arts With Distinction in Staging Shakespeare.

"The Memory of Water" was written by Shelagh Stephenson

liott as Moore's amusingly grumpy right-hand man. Gibson survives the cheesy scenes with his wife (Madeleine Stowe, teary-eyed throughout and looking like she went down the unfortunate Barbara Hershey lip augmentation path) and his litter of dew-eyed kids, and emerges as a valiant, deeply admirable figure. In one powerful sequence, a young journalist named Joseph Galloway (the compelling Barry Pepper from "Saving Private Ryan") is dropped into the battle to cover it, ends up taking up arms to save his own life and gets a horrific education in the ugliness of war when several soldiers around him are accidentally

1967, many residents of a town reported visitations from a giant, mothlike creature. In the film — which is better at creating an unsettling atmosphere than at giving the viewer a clear notion of what's going on — the strange circumstance surrounding the death of his wife leads modern-day reporter John Klein (Richard Gere) to investigate strange goings-on in a town 400 miles away. Laura Linney and Debra Messing co-star in this supernatural thriller. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: violence, language, sex.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. C

"MULLHOLLAND DR.":

At the end of this mind-trip, all you can do is laugh. David Lynch has once again led us on a merry dance through a minefield littered with freaks, apple-pie moments we can't trust, terrifying weirdoes and puzzling, possibly pointless scenes. A beautiful amnesia and a cherry, innocent in-genu set out to solve a mystery. Then they become different people. Chances are it's all a dream, or at least half a dream. Makes "Memento" look easy to understand. Lynch probably won't win himself any new fans with this one, but old ones will enjoy this excursion into his creative mind. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and some strong sexuality.) 2 hours, 26 minutes. B+

"PINERO":

Benjamin Bratt resurrects the spirit of Puerto Rican playwright, poet and actor Miguel Piñero. Leon Ichaso, who directed and wrote the screenplay, has constructed a movie that is more montage than narrative as it flashes back and forth between color and black-and-white and jumps around in time. The screenplay is mercifully free of moralizing, and although Piñero fits the cliché of a charismatic damned poet, the movie's mythmaking machinery doesn't go overboard. Even while depicting Piñero's squandering of his own talent, Bratt's portrayal retains a layer of sincere earnestness. — S. Holden. (R: drug use, strong language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B

"QUEEN OF THE DAMNED":

Despite blood-slurping, a Goth rock score and even the chilling resurrection of Aaliyah as the title character, this third installment of Anne Rice's "Vampire Chronicles" seems curiously torpid. Except for the special effects (not impressive, but you could tell a computer with a lot of memory was used), the pallid story line and predictable emotional pulse have that two-day video rental feel. Lestat (Stuart Townsend) awakens from a bored 200-year slumber to become a Goth rock star, licking his secretive brethren and awakening the Mother of All Vampires, who can rip out hearts and turn vampires into burnt toast. Much of the late Aaliyah's screen time is divided between walking sinuously and sinking her teeth into pulsating organs. This passionless "Queen" isn't worth burning an after-image of a sharp-toothed Aaliyah licking fake blood from her lips. — V. Chan. (R: violence, language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C

"RETURN TO NEVER LAND":

James M. Barrie, who died in 1937, never knew the London depicted in Disney's new animated sequel to his beloved "Peter Pan." The streets have been pockmarked by German bombs, and air-raid sirens wail. The original story's central character, Wendy, now is married with children of her own. Her serious-minded daughter, Jane, is whisked away to Never Land, not by Peter Pan, but by the evil Captain Hook, who believes he has custody of Peter's old chum Wendy. Was it right for Disney to tinker with Barrie's story? Maybe not. The most important question: Is it decent family entertainment? Yes. — V. Kulkenski. (G) 1 hour, 12 minutes. C+

"ROLLERBALL":

The writers of this remake of the 1975 film stripped away the futurism and most of the social satire. What we're left with is "American Gladiators" on steroids. The bland Chris Klein plays Jonathan, a hockey hopeful who gets his kicks riding roller luge through

and won the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. Fine and deserved. But catch the show for the immediate and accessible acting of a stellar cast including Phoebe Moyer, Araxi Djan, Cynthia Bassem, Lizzie Calogero, Simon Vance and Kevin Kelleher.

"Memory" plays at 7 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 10. Ticket for Saturday shows are \$19, dropping back to \$15 for other performances. Students, seniors and TBA members get a \$3 discount. Call 510-436-5085.

Send items of interest to Jack Tucker at 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA, 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@cctimes.com, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

hit by American friendly fire.

The movie is based on "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," a book co-written by Moore and Galloway. Presumably that ungainly yet oddly eloquent title was lopped in half because it was too long. But one might well ask whether the studio wanted to minimize its wishful, retrospective air. After all, the moviegoing public is, at present, more interested in present-tense soldiers than the misty musings of past warriors.

Mary F. Pols is the Times movie critic. She can be reached at 925-945-4741 or at mpols@cctimes.com.

the streets of San Francisco. His pal, Ridley (LL Cool J), talks him into joining him on the tracks of the new and violent sport of Rollerball. An evil robber baron (Jean Reno) aims to get a U.S. cable deal by upping the violence. — R. Moore. (PG-13: violence, extreme-sports action, sensuality, language and some drug references.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. D

"THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS":

There's such an ironic distance to director Wes Anderson's family, highly stylized movie about a family of failed, alienated geniuses that it's like watching a cinematic version of the eccentric literary quarterly McSweeney's, something exquisitely crafted for maximum cleverness. What saves it from being gag-me precious is the fact that Anderson also has a tender heart to go along with his fetish for detail and eye for the absurd. Amid all the movie's mannerisms are some truths about family that knock you for an unexpectedly emotional loop. All the performances are delightful, but Gene Hackman, as the Tenenbaums' rascal of a patriarch, is unforgettable. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality/nudity and drug content.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. A-

"SNOW DOGS":

Miami dentist Ted Brooks (Cuba Gooding Jr.) finds out he was adopted when his biological mother, who piloted Alaskan sled dogs to championships, dies, and he schleps to the small town of Tokletina to inventory and sell her belongings — including her valuable pack of huskies. A gruff sled-dog racer named Thunder Jack (James Coburn) was one of his mother's chief competitors. He wants those dogs for himself, but Ted won't let him have them. With the Arctic Challenge coming up, Ted would rather learn to race them himself. "Snow Dogs" is lightweight and predictable, and the dogs are just too cute, along with animatronic counterparts that are so expressive, they're spooky. — C. Lamore. (PG: mild crude humor.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. C

"STORYTELLING":

A lazy piece of work from director Todd Solondz, two stories that bear no relation to each other, slapped together under the notion that they're both about storytelling. That's like saying the 11 o'clock news is about the news. In the first half, a college student allows herself to be sexually used by her professor to prove she isn't a racist. In the second half, a documentary filmmaker chronicles the pathetic life of a directionless high school student. Solondz has a flair for the dark comedy, and there's some good acting, but the whole thing seems pointless. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexual content, language and some drug use.) 1 hour, 29 minutes. C

"SUPER TROOPERS":

There's some fun to be had in this goofball comedy about a five ridiculous Vermont highway patrolmen who relieve their boredom by pulling pranks on unsuspecting motorists. Written by and starring members of a comedy troupe called Broken Lizard, the movie has a few moments of inspired, straight-faced stupidity, even as it grows increasingly repetitive after the first half-hour. What's refreshing about the humor is the absence of mean-spiritedness that fills most dumb comedies these days. — G. Whippo. (R: nudity, sexual situations, language and drug content.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. C+

"A WALK TO REMEMBER":

Landon (Shane West) are the unlikely match made in heaven. Landon drives a fast car and hangs with the cool crowd; Jamie totes a Bible and tutors kids in her spare time. For most of its running time, the movie is a sweet love story with a sprinkling of faith. But the film's third act has the kids facing death, albeit with all the conformation of two teens confronting the prospect of spending an entire Saturday with their parents. And, really, a funeral is the last thing this movie needs. — G. Whippo. (PG: mild language, mildly sensual material.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

ing hatred of Jews. (I'm not Jewish, by the way, and I do NOT support many Israeli policies.) This may seem simplistic, but it's also true, and I applaud Cohen for finally saying that many in the Arab world, terrorists and otherwise, are consumed by their anti-Semitism.

2. In all the recent Enron coverage, why isn't the Washington press corps asking this basic question: Where is President Bush in all this? Shouldn't he be expressing outrage at the way Enron workers and American stockholders have been treated? Why isn't he using his bully pulpit to push both for reforms and for the jailing of the Enron execs responsible — instead of hiding in the White House?

3. Did anyone else notice that on the day campaign finance reform was finally passed by the House recently (over Tom DeLay and Dick Army's strenuous efforts to stop it), all three major broadcast networks, ludicrously, pushed this big story well down into their nightly newscasts. This demonstrated a deplorable and worrisome lack of news judgment. It's hardly a coincidence that big broadcasters vehemently oppose finance reform — it will cost them hundreds of millions of dollars in "soft money." This was reflected in a conscious news decision to play down this big story.

MEDIA NOTES: Remember how infuriating it was when the U.S. wasn't allowed to send its best basketball players — the pros — to the summer Olympics? Well, multiply that

by about five, and you'll have some idea of what it was like for Canadians not to have won the Olympic gold medal in hockey for 50 years. I was rooting for them all last week. I was surprised the New York Post didn't come up with its usual snappy headline after Sunday's big Canadian hockey win over the U.S., something like "We Were Hosed, Eh?" And why did KGO-TV's Larry Bell use this big story on his Sunday-evening sportscast as only a brief flash on screen, whereas KPX's Dennis O'Donnell gave it the coverage it deserved, with tape? The game had already been shown on NBC, Larry. You weren't going to spoil it for KNTV viewers.

What's with local TV

weatherguys? They just keep having tabloid encounters. As we reported a couple of weeks ago, the NYPost poked fun at KRON's new afternoon forecaster, Mark Dannon, when cops busted him for allegedly selling coke a couple of years ago outside the studios of his then-employer, WCBS-TV, in New York. Now comes a piece in the National Enquirer about Channel 7's Spencer Christian filing for bankruptcy in December (the second time he's apparently done so) after running up nearly \$2.3 million in debts (including \$300,000 in casino debts) at about the same time he came out here three years ago (after being dropped from ABC's "Good Morning America.") Christian, 54, told the tab that he's stopped gambling and is working hard to put his life back together. Christian also told the Enquirer: "Those debts were incurred during a time I was going through a painful and costly divorce, a divorce I did not want." Paradox-

ically, the San Fran dailies, which are both glorified tabs themselves, have not reported any of this. They presumably can't be bothered to cover anything about local TV or radio until a station faxes them a press release.

Speaking of the big HBO Monica project, KTVU anchor Dennis Richmond is seen on-camera Sunday during the special, reading a Lewinsky story from 1999 on "The 10 O'Clock News."

Sunday is HBO's biggest night of the year: At 9, just before Monica, it's the second-season premiere of HBO's critically acclaimed "Six Feet Under," the award-winning series about a dysfunctional family that owns an L.A. funeral home. This well-written, limited-run series is, along with "The Sopranos," one of the two best shows currently on TV, and I quickly got hooked last year. I've devoured this new season's first four episodes of "SFU," and I'm happy to report that there's been no drop-off in quality.

Speaking of matters funeral, I've never been prouder to be a New Yorker subscriber than this week, when its news-making interview with "West Wing" producer Aaron Sorkin appeared — an interview that blasts the incumbent. The best part is Sorkin's claim that President Bush "made goofy faces" at the press during a funeral. Why doesn't this surprise me? Better question, noting Clinton's behavior above: What ever happened to the notion of electing a grown-up as President?

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill: Newsman@sonic.net)

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

and four dance companies. Sightlines, 7:30 p.m. Pre-performance talks with the artists. Free to ticketholders. \$18 to \$30. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988 or www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

DANCE FOR POWER

— The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique, March 10, 2:30 p.m. A presentation of African warrior dances, festive celebration rituals, wedding dances and a cappella singing. \$26 adults; \$12 children ages 12 and under. Calvin Simmons Theater, Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center, 10 10th St., Oakland. (510) 465-9313 or www.danceforpower.org

EAGLES HALL ZYDECO

CAJUN DANCES — Dance lesson, 8 p.m.; concert and dance, 9 p.m. 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda. (415) 285-6285 or didesimone.home.mindspring.com/Eagles/content-eagles.html

EAST BAY DANCE CENTER

— Move Dance Theatre, March 8 and March 9, 8 p.m. A presentation of "Imagine: Creating New Works, Celebrating New Possibilities," their 17th annual season of dance. \$6 to \$18. Valley Center for Performing Arts, Holy Names College, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 465-6678.

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER

— "Women in Salsa Celebration," March 1, 9 p.m. Guest artists: Gloria Amaral, Barbara Valladares, Denise Corrales, Raquel Simmons, Patricia Tumas and M.C. Chata Gutierrez. Featuring original salsa Latin hip-hop. \$8 to \$10.

— "Aywah! Ethnic Dance Co.," March 2, 8 p.m. Guest artists: Tobias Roberson, percussion; Peter Jacque, clarinet and saxophone; and Larry Klein, oud. Music and dance from Turkey, the Balkan Roman, Egypt and Morocco. \$14 to \$16.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-2568 or www.lapena.org

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB

— "Dance Class & Ceili," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

— "The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale. For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082.

UC BERKELEY

— Shashmaqam, March 9, 8 p.m. The colorful and vibrant Jewish ensemble from Central Asia performs music and dance from

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. \$24 per person. Wheeler Hall, University of California campus, Berkeley. (415) 444-8000 or (415) 478-2277.

Classical Music

BERKELEY OPERA — "Così fan tutte" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, closing March 3. Jonathan Khuner conducts this opera about two young men who use disguises to tempt their sweethearts and test their fidelity. In Italian with English supertitles. \$30 general; \$25 seniors; \$15 youths and disabled persons; \$10 students. Friday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m.; March 2, 8 p.m. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (925) 798-1300 or www.berkeleyopera.org

BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

— "In Praise of Music: The Berkeley Choral Festival," Vance George conducting, March 4, 8 p.m. Guest artists: Bell Musica Chorus, Berkeley Community Chorus, California State University at Hayward Oratorio Society, First Congregational Church Chancel Choir, Pacific Boychoir Academy, UC Alumni Chorus and members of the St. Marks Choir Association. Kent Nagano, Berkeley Symphony music director, and Robert Commanday, noted music critic, will host the evening. A program of works by Orff, Mozart, Handel, Haydn, Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Verdi and Faure. Proceeds benefit the Musicians'

Pension Fund. \$25 to \$49; \$12 students. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Bancroft Way and Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 841-2800 or www.berkeleysymphony.org

CAL PERFORMANCES

— Petersen Quartet, March 10, 3 p.m. A program of works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Bartok. \$34. Hertz Hall, College Avenue and Bancroft Way, University of California, Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY


— "Tenebrae," Warren Stewart directing, March 1, 8 p.m. A performance of the Good Friday twilight service by Gesualdo. \$25 general; \$18 seniors; \$12 students. First Congregational Church, Dana and Durant Streets, Berkeley. (415) 440-BACH or www.calbach.org

CHAMBER MUSIC SUNDAYS

— March 10, 3:15 p.m. A program of works by Schubert, Dvorak and Haydn. \$18 general; \$14 seniors and students; \$7 youths under age 18. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. (415) 584-5946.

EARLY MUSIC AT ST. ALBAN'S

— "Carnaval of Florence," March 3, 4 p.m. A program of 16th century music from Florence at the time of Lorenzo de Medici. \$18 general; \$15 seniors, students and Albany residents. 1501 Washington St., Albany. (510) 527-9029.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-availability basis.

Children

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatricCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 948-9682.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Judie, 215-4371.

LBGTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-769-8560.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations, and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to lshinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; Univer-

sity YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. For more information call Betty Coates at 235-0490. This chapter has moved from Richmond.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6608.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 842-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-8708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies": volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact: Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley; serving women who are

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

YOU AND I INCLUDED

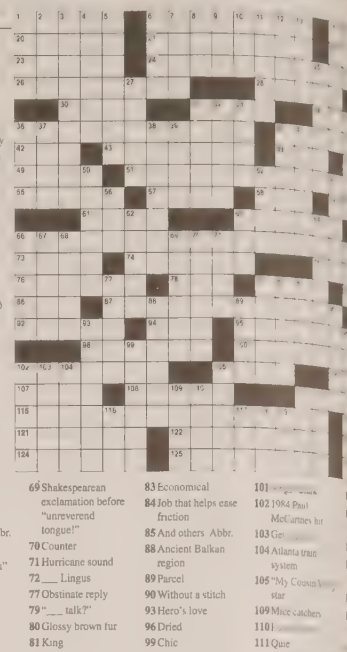
By MUSHY NOBOWSKY/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 They may be heaved
6 Dins of hail
14 She may be under loch and quay
20 Scatter
21 Educational milieu
22 Like a wake
23 Exercise based on karate
24 Evidence of computer tampering
26 Black, as the night sky
28 Timetables, for short
29 Poet Van Dyke
30 Re-count
31 Sticéde des
34 Waikiki sights
36 Light dish at a Hawaiian party
40 Not told
42 Bring into play
43 Ordinary guy
44 Whittman's "A Backward Glance at Traveler's Road"
45 It may be thrown in a ring
49 Exercise target
51 Thinking about destructive insects
54 Sur-fryer
55 Round table
57 Encouraging word
58 Big time

DOWN

- 1 Jet set
2 "Let's just leave this" that
3 Constellation next to the Gaffe
4 Whence the word "Sabbath"
5 Puffed up
6 Some film shots or reactions
7 Critical hosp. areas
8 Sky cap
9 "The Sultan of Sulu" writer
10 Via
11 Out of whack
12 Watch word
13 Pete's follower
14 Deny
15 Psyche's forte
16 Staying power
17 Amash, as a patch
18 Singer Cara
19 "a Man" (Calder Willingham novel and play)
20 Demizeti's Lammormoor bride
21 Go to
22 Give a piece of one's mind
23 Decide on
24 Very much
25 Shallow
26 Pops for tots
27 Bender at the bar
28 Adversarial
29 Sausalito's enclivity
30 Object of incense burning, maybe
31 Broom—comics witch
32 Many a leg's end
33 Frogner Park's home
34 Court wear
35 "Excuse me"
36 Holiday me, say
37 Kind of farmer
38 Wine guy
39 Theologian Kierkegaard
40 Giving the go-ahead
41 Nonsense
42 Field for an engr.
43 Reco competitor
44 Comb of Larry and Curly
45 U.S. ballroom site
46 Musical Shaw
47 Part of P.S.T.: Abbr.
48 Didactyl
49 "It Had to Be You" composer
50 Jones
51 "a Man" (Calder Willingham novel and play)
52 Illegal parker's concern
53 Economical
54 Job that helps ease friction
55 And others: Abbr.
56 Ancient Balkan region
57 Parcel
58 Without a stitch
59 Hero's love
60 Dried
61 Chic



homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

The Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC) features a retrospective show of the work of the late Jan Hart-Schuyters through March 13. The exhibit is part of "The Art for Living Back (TAOLB)," open studios for local African-American artists. Ms Hart-Schuyters was the co-founder of TAOLB. WCRC gallery hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and noon to 4 p.m. and by appointment, Saturdays. There is no charge for admission and the gallery is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 548-9286 ex. 307.

Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., continues its exhibit of "Ansel Adams from the University of California Collection," through March 10. The exhibition consists of a selection of photographs and memorabilia drawn from the extensive holdings of the UC Bancroft Library. For more information, call 643-6494.

The Richmond Museum of History continues exhibiting highlighting Richmond's agricultural beginnings, industrial achievements, and homefront contributions during WWII. Special exhibits and events are held throughout the year. The museum is located in the historic 1910 Carnegie Library in the Old Downtown area at the corner of 4th Street and Nevin Ave. Call 235-7387 for more information or to arrange tours.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on request. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery is located on Solano Avenue. New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave., present author Patricia Evans discussing her book "Controlling People," at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, and on Saturday, March 9 at 2 p.m. will present author B.K. Frantz discussing his book "Relaxing Into Your Being." Frantz provides practical experiential techniques that will help to alter the patterns of tension and lead to a discovery of inner peace. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 844-0861.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Allston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m., at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

Free seminar on Natural Learning

Rhythms, a holistic understanding of child development, takes place from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Berkeley Public Library, Claremont Branch, 2940 Benvenute. The program describes each stage of a child's life, natural pauses and transitions. Registration is required. Call 800-2001107 for more information.

Berkeley Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts hosts an informational and discussion session regarding dance opportunities in the Bay Area. The center opens its doors to the dance community and presents its plans for Dance Week 2002 and for future dance performances on the stage of Julia Morgan Theatre. The center is located at 302 East 12th Street, Kensington. For more information, call 442-1111.

See CALENDAR

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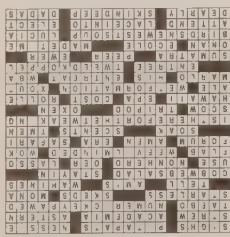
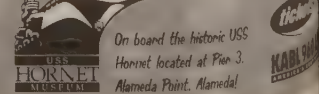
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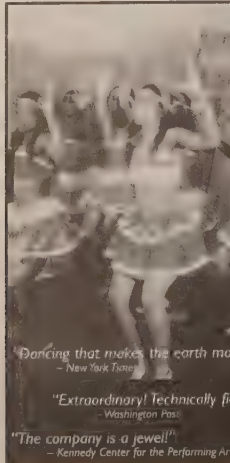
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ALTERED STATES FRIDAY MARCH 15 8PM Paramount Theatre Patrick Summers, Guest Conductor Free Pre-Concert Lecture by composer Jack Perla 7:05 pm

PATRICK SUMMERS San Francisco Opera Principal Guest Conductor

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

870 Legal Notices

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME STATEMENT
I, the undersigned, the business **TEAM AMERICAN** at local-
BLVD. IN LAFAYETTE, CA 94559
The business is hereby
registered by the following owner(s)
Jerry Clarke
832 Tampico
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
This registration was conducted by an individual,
Jeri Ramsey Clarke
This statement was filed
with the County Clerk of
Contra Costa County on date indicated
by the file stamp above
on December 11, 2001
Superior Court Number 28,
2006
Legal The Journal # 0791
Register March 1, 1975
22, 2002

LEGAL NOTICE
Shannon Leslie Bagwell
23015 Highlands Blvd
San Ramon, CA 94583
SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF
CONTRA COSTA
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 91
Martinez, CA 94553
PETITION of Shannon
Bagwell for CHANGE OF
Name
Case No. N02-0235
**ORDER TO SHOW
CAUSE FOR CHANGE
OF NAME**
TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS:
1. Petitioner Shannon Bag-
well, has filed a petition
with this court for a decree
changing names as fol-
lows
Kukunome to Raymond
Nakunome to (Proposed

2 THE COURT ORD

(a) All people interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to file a written objection to the petition for change of name should not be granted

NOTICE OF HEARING

a. Date: 4/17/02, Time: 3:24pm, Dept: 60, Room: B004, located at 625 Court B001, P001, Martinez, CA 94555

(b) A copy of this order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition for change of name. A copy of general circulation printed in this County, El Cerrito Journal

Dated: February 20, 2002
JUDITH A. SANDERS
JUDGE PRO TEM OF THE
FOLIO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
Legal The Journal #0798
Published March 1, 15, 22
2002

261

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7.

Calendar

FROM PAGE C6

Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more information, call R. DeRitt, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly, on the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Lardé at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Every one over 55 is welcome. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientations every

Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information. The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

"Voices of Healing" is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays: fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (415) 461-5397; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month, 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Music

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra presents "In Praise of Music—Berkeley Choral Festival," a benefit for the Musicians' Pension Fund at 9 p.m. Monday, March 4, at 101 Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. Tickets: \$25, \$47, \$49; (\$12 students) available through Berkeley Symphony Ticket Services at 841-2800 or during the hour before the performance at Zellerbach Hall Box Office. Call 841-2800 for more information.

Cal Performances presents avant-garde musician and performance artist Laurie Anderson at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9 at the 101 Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. An-

derson will perform her new solo work, "Happiness." Price: \$20 and \$42. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office: Tickets.com; or at the door. For more information, or to charge by phone, call Cal Performances at 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances Web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

Hausmuell presents "Carnaval of Florence," at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 3, in the sanctuary of St. Albans Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St. in Albany. Featured performers are members of the Berkeley-based group Danzai, some of the Bay Area's and the country's finest performers of renaissance music. This venue is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$18 general; \$15 students and seniors. Advance reservations are recommended. Call 527-9029 for information and reservations.

Cal Performances presents the Petersen Quartet, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10, in Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley. The Quartet was founded in 1979 by students at the Hanns Eisler Musikhochschule in Berlin and went on to win top prizes at international festivals. The quartet will perform Beethoven's String Quartet in D major, Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 14 in F-sharp major, and Ravel's String Quartet in F major. A free Sightlines pre-concert discussion with the artists will take place from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$34. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at 642-9988 for ticket availability.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., repeats Berkeley Opera's Season Opener "Mozart's Così Fan Tutte," March 1, 2 and 3 (Show times: March 1, 2, at 8 p.m.; March 3, 7 p.m.). Tickets Adults: \$30; seniors: \$25. For tickets call CBON

ticket line at 925-798-1300. For more information, call 841-1903.

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway Rehearsals Tuesdays, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

Ducksan Distones, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Guistino on Fretless Gibson L-4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m., no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome.

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DC.....Diners Club\$15-\$20
DS.....Discover Card\$20-
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Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Bar Hours: Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Fri. - Sat.

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You can hear and dance to live music (Jazz, Rhythm & Blues) Thursday through Sunday nights. Zakayah Hooker, (John Lee Hooker's daughter), and Bluz 4 U has declared the Oyster Reef its exclusive venue in the Bay Area! Other incredibly talented artist appearing includes Terry & Mary (Sanders), Westwind (Johnny Buntont & Bob Casella) & Simon (Russell).
Aside from the gourmet food and romantic atmosphere, you'll be fascinated by the very interesting history which includes the recent crash by the now defunct XFLs, (i.e., Extreme Football League) Blimp into the restaurant.
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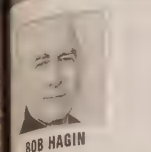
Auto Plus

ing supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, March 1, 2002

Section D

Generation Gap: Dodge Stratus R/T Coupe makes fashion statement [D3]



BOB HAGIN

personalities make
near business
interesting

BY BOB HAGIN
PACIFIC AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Interesting things have
been going on in the auto world re-
cently. Most of them point up-
ward. It's a very diverse world.
Some new happenings for

bank backs away
DaimlerChrysler

secret that since Daimler-
Chrysler took over Chrysler Corp. sev-
eral years ago, things have not
gone well for that German

the time that Daimler-
Chrysler (Daimler) head man Jürgen
Schepers admitted that
DaimlerChrysler executives
were being a "merger
monster." It wasn't to strong-arm
Chrysler suppliers into
mergers, but to bring in a fly-
ing German execs to re-
organize. It's been tough

things may get even worse
Chrysler Bank, the automaker's
financing arm, announced that
it will sell off its 12-percent share
of Chrysler's stock as soon as
possible. DC wants to drop its
share to investors by al-
most 50 percent, which won't sit
well with shareholders at the next
annual meeting.

BOB HAGIN, Page D2



NISSAN ALTIMA'S new shape is both striking and pleasing, with more interior room.

Altima receives high praise from consumer groups

BY TOM HAGIN

PACIFIC AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

The old Nissan Altima can definitely be compared to a meek, Mister Peepers high-school boy. Serious about his work and beautiful at heart, he was somewhat clumsy at sports — ignored by the top social circles.

The 2002 Nissan Altima is that same boy after a summer of pumping iron, getting the right haircut, acquiring a new, confident social attitude and an athletic demeanor. The new kid forces the whole school to stand up and take notice. Like that boy, the Altima has

changed.

Available in Base, S, SL and SE, the 2002 Altima SE just waltzed into the prom, and we're still catching our breath.

Outside: The new look is a dramatic step in an upscale styling direction.

Nissan took that step several years ago when it completely redesigned the Maxima, and many of those styling cues went into the design of the new Altima.

The shape is both striking and pleasing, and it stands out in the crowd. This particular segment of

TOM HAGIN
Solo Road Test

the car business sells best, and most in the class are bland and boring, with emotion and excitement being left to aftermarket enhancements.

But the shovel-nose look of the Altima is exciting, with its steeply raked windshield, Euro-styled roof line and flat-plane tail end.

Our top-line V-6 model wore six-spoke alloy wheels, 17 inches in

size, along with 55-series high performance tires. Jeweled head and tail light lenses, and twin chrome exhaust tips give it a rich look.

Inside: A 7-inch increase in wheelbase, along with more width and height, have increased interior space 10 percent.

The three-pod dashboard has highly legible orange back-lit dials and protrudes from the deep dash-top, where a center console houses easy-to-use audio and climate controls.

We'd like to see richer-looking plastics used throughout the cabin,

although it's common practice in cars in this market niche. For us, the front bucket seats could use a more lateral support and some extra thigh bolstering, as it's obviously tailored to fit the masses.

The steering column tilts and telescopes, and combined with the powered driver's seat, should give nearly any size driver a suitable driving position.

Standard Altima SE features include remote keyless entry, variable speed intermittent wipers, air

See SOLO, Page D2

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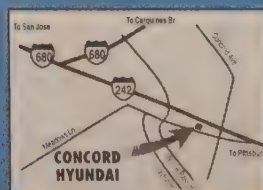
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2002 Oldsmobile Alero GLS is a substantial family car with sporting overtones

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Brendan: Oldsmobiles are not the most popular of General Motors' vast model selection and it's understandable. GM has starved the company for years in spite of the fact that not long ago the Olds Cutlass models were among the top five sellers in the country.

But the marquee has its followers. Mikele's grandmother and her cousin own Oldsmobiles, and they love them.

The 2002 Olds Alero GL, our tester this week, is available in two lineup versions, the GX and the GL. Standard in the GX is the 2.2-liter four-cylinder that also comes in the GL, but our car was powered by a serviceable 3.4 liter V-6.

It's 170-horsepower and 200-pound feet of torque seem low if you compare them to the GM muscle machines of the past, but it's enough to get the car moving when quick response is needed.

Our test GL had a special luxury package so an "S" suffix was added.

Mikele: Bren, grandma's old Olds 88 is comfortable and pleasant to drive, but it's nothing like the Alero in terms of get up and go. Coupled to a smooth shifting, tall-gear four-speed automatic transmission, it gets 20 miles per gallon city and 29 highway. I liked the ride.

It has true four-wheel independent suspension without a stop-gap twist axle in back. The system lets each wheel respond independently on uneven road surfaces, allowing for a smoother all-around feel.

It also has a variable effort power rack-and-pinion steering system that varies the power assist by the speed of the car. It gives more assist at lower speeds, like maneu-

BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN

Gender Gap

vering into a parking space, and less assist at higher speeds, like while driving on a highway.

The Alero is quite cost effective in the maintenance department, with platinum tipped spark plugs that let the Alero to go up to 100,000 miles between spark plug replacements.

Its coolant, brake fluid and automatic transmission fluid are formulated to last up to 100,000 miles or more as well. But I still think that it lulls a driver into a false sense of security so the car should still be serviced at least every 3,000 miles.

Brendan: You sound more like my dad all the time, Mikele. I liked the luxury of the Alero's roomy five-passenger interior, with many items to gain my attention. The high quality sound system that features a CD player standard can have six to eight speakers available, depending on model.

Solar-coated, tinted glass reduces interior heat and makes the inside cooler in the summer months. The positive shut-off vents in the dash and air conditioning help keep cabin occupants comfortable and the heating system has rear-seat heat ducts for faster warm-up in the back.

All the normal stuff is included, such as power locks, windows, and mirrors, as well as tilt steering wheel and cruise control.

A bonus for guys my size is the six-way power front driver's seat. The rear seats have a 70/30 split so you can carry long cargo without losing the entire rear seating area.



THE OLDSMOBILE ALERO'S smooth lines make it stand up to all those Euro-luxury vehicles from Germany

Mikele: Those rear seats that fold down are ideal for when I go shopping, because like your mom, I tend to grocery-shop infrequently but load up when I do.

I never thought much of the past Oldsmobiles in terms of exterior beauty, but the new Alero is a pretty machine. The smooth lines make it stand up to all those Euro-luxury vehicles from Germany, and the polished 16-inch aluminum wheels make it a cool looking ride.

Safetywise, the Alero has it all. From front and rear crush zones, steel door beams and interior padding, it make it safe when it's

out in the wild world of freeway driving. Dual front air bags and four-wheel disc brakes with ABS are also included and so is all-speed traction control. All-Trac helps to minimize wheel-spin any time when the car gets into a precarious road-surface situation.

Brendan: The new Alero is a very classy car, Mikele. Maybe we can talk your grandmother into trading in her old Delta 88 for a new Alero.

Mikele: I doubt that very much, Brendan. She's pretty practical and I don't think she'd want to take on car payments at her age.

2002 OLDSMOBILE ALERO GLS

Suggested Retail	
Price as Tested	
Engine Type	OHV 12-valve 3.4 liter V-6
Torque	230 lb-ft @ 2400 rpm
Horsepower	170 @ 5600 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Fuel Capacity	
Wheelbase	
Tires	(F/R) P215/55R17 all season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS) Front-engine/front-wheel drive
Drive Train	Five-passenger
Vehicle Type	City/highway
Mileage	0-60 mph

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

Solo Road test

FROM PAGE D1

conditioning, cruise control, a lockable, 60/40 split folding rear seat, power windows, outside mirrors and door locks, leather wrapped steering wheel, and a mid-line AM/FM/CD stereo.

On the Road: For years, the Altima had been powered only by a four-cylinder engine. The automotive press demanded more power, even if it meant being supplied by an optional package.

And, while the lower-end Altima models can still be had with four-cylinder power, (it's a 180-horse, 2.5-liter unit) Nissan has quieted critics in a big way.

For the first time, a 3.5-liter, 240 horsepower V-6 is available, which

turns Altima into a real street-screamer. It's an all-aluminum unit, using all the power-enhancing technology found in today's best engines.

Such design science includes dual overhead cams, four valves per cylinder, variable valve timing and drive-by wire throttle control. It can be ordered with either a five-speed manual or a four-speed automatic transmission.

Behind the Wheel: To make a strong platform even stronger, Altima now benefits from a one-piece body-side structure framing the doors.

This, Nissan says, improves structural rigidity by 70 percent,

which is noticed most in its taut and quiet road-going attitude.

Extensive use of aluminum in the suspension system has reduced unsprung weight, while a new layout for the rear system has reduced friction and suspension wind-up as well as providing better damping and less ride harshness.

Altima's rack-and-pinion steering system is well-weighted and gives the driver a good feel for what the front end is doing.

Braking is by four-wheel discs with an available anti-lock braking system (ABS) that's bundled together as a safety package that adds front, side and head curtain airbags.

Brake Assist, a system that automatically applies maximum braking pressure in a panic stop, is standard.

Safety: Dual dashboard airbags, brake assist and side-impact door

beams are standard; traction control (only with an automatic transmission) side-impact and side-cur-

tain airbags are optional. Options: ABS and Airbags Package, \$749; uplevel stereo, \$899; power glass sunroof, \$399; rear spoiler, \$399; uplevel headlights, \$499.

2002 NISSAN ALTIMA 3.5 SE

Suggested Retail	
Price as Tested	
Engine Type	DOHC 24-valve 3.5-liter V-6
Engine Size	210 hp
Horsepower	2400 rpm
Torque	246 lb-ft
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Curb Weight	
Fuel Capacity	
Tires	(F/R) P215/55R17 all season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS) Front-engine/front-wheel drive
Drive Train	
Vehicle Type	
Mileage	0-60 mph

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

Hagin

FROM PAGE D1

Last year DC stock ranged from a high of \$52 down to \$25 last year and is currently at \$35.

Deutsche Bank plans to sell as soon as shares get back up to a reasonable price and it also plans to sell its stock in all its publicly traded industrial businesses. Maybe it's decided that backing companies that make "stuff" is too risky.

Cadillac taps a rapper

Cadillac wants to shake it's stodgy image, right? Since the average age of a typical Caddy owner is in the mid-60s, it will take some innovative publicity to get those demographics down into the low 50s but the company is determined.

To that end, the youthful executive and advertising folks involved with the marquee came up with some innovative programs.

TV viewers have already been exposed to a promotion for the 2003 3.2-liter Cadillac CTS sedan that features it blasting past a pristine 'late-'50s Cad convertible. It's accompanied by a Led Zeppelin tune (it's the first time that group has allowed its songs to be used in a commercial) in a pitch to the generation that venerates that style of rock and roll.

But the really startling possible promotion is one that involves rap star Snoop Dogg. A special version of the Deville is on order with a Texas Cad dealer to produce the personalized Snoop Dogg Deville.

The company disclaims rumors that it plans a production model, but somewhere in the corporate psyche there must be the memory of the special Cad convertibles made famous by the late Elvis Presley.

Honda introduces personable robot

It's a Honda model that you won't see on a showroom floor for a few years, but it's one that is bound to attract attention wherever it's shown.

Maybe "it" should be called "he" since "Asimo" is a totally articulated robot that can walk, talk, sing, dance, climb stairs and even do simple domestic chores.

Asimo is so human-like, Honda executives asked religious leaders in Japan for their blessing to complete the project. Honda started its human-like robot research in the early '70s as a way to accelerate the research and development of future products.

"He" isn't very tall at only 47 inches and weighs 115 pounds, but he has a smile on his "face" and can even shake hands with

onlookers.

But if you're really serious about having an Asimo (Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility), you may be able to rent one — if you live in Japan. The new, improved version can receive voice input and do a plethora of other interesting things.

It's not as versatile as The Robot in the "Lost In Space" TV series but then Will Robinson (actor Billy Mumy) is all grown up (he should be about 48 now) and can take care of himself.

Knowledgeable buyers seen as threat to industry

Sometimes auto executives say the damndest things that come back to haunt them. The aforementioned Jurgen Schrempp of DaimlerChrysler is a prime example.

Another recent member of that unofficial "Foot In Mouth" club has to be Jim Press, chief operations officer of Toyota U.S.A. as he addressed the recent annual meeting of the National Automobile Dealers Association in New Orleans.

In recent years, animosity has been developing between the automakers and their dealers. In the case of Ford, it led to court battles and hard feelings for a long time. In an attempt to urge dealers and factories to grow closer together, Press cited the need for the two to join against "assaults" from several different groups.

One threat is from customers who are now more knowledgeable and demanding, he said, while another is activist groups who are concerned about traffic, safety driver distractions and the environment.

I hope that the rest of the industry doesn't feel that buyer ignorance is bliss and that traffic, safety and the environment will take care of themselves.

Kmart files bankruptcy but Penske presses on

Roger "The Captain" Penske isn't known for making bad business decisions, except maybe for bucking the Indy Racing League and almost wrecking formula racing in America. One of his multitude of business ventures is the operation of the auto service centers for the Kmart mass-merchandise.

Penske Auto Centers are in one out of every three of Kmart's 2,100 stores and doing very well.

But recently Kmart filed for bankruptcy and that may leave Penske in a tight spot. All but 48 of his centers are under Kmart roofs, so drawing customers may take some innovative marketing. Although the Penske Auto Centers have been money-loosers since their inception in '95, the com-

pany just signed a 10-year renewal contract with Kmart. Martha Stewart may have a problem but The Captain sails on.

All of these items point up the fact that there's more to the car business than just

cars.

After 25 years of reporting on the automotive industry and test driving cars, the Hagin family of writers is calling it quits. This will be our last series of columns. A new

service, Motor News Media's bandale, IA, has assumed the Pacheco Automotive News Service continue to provide readers with live reporting and test drives.

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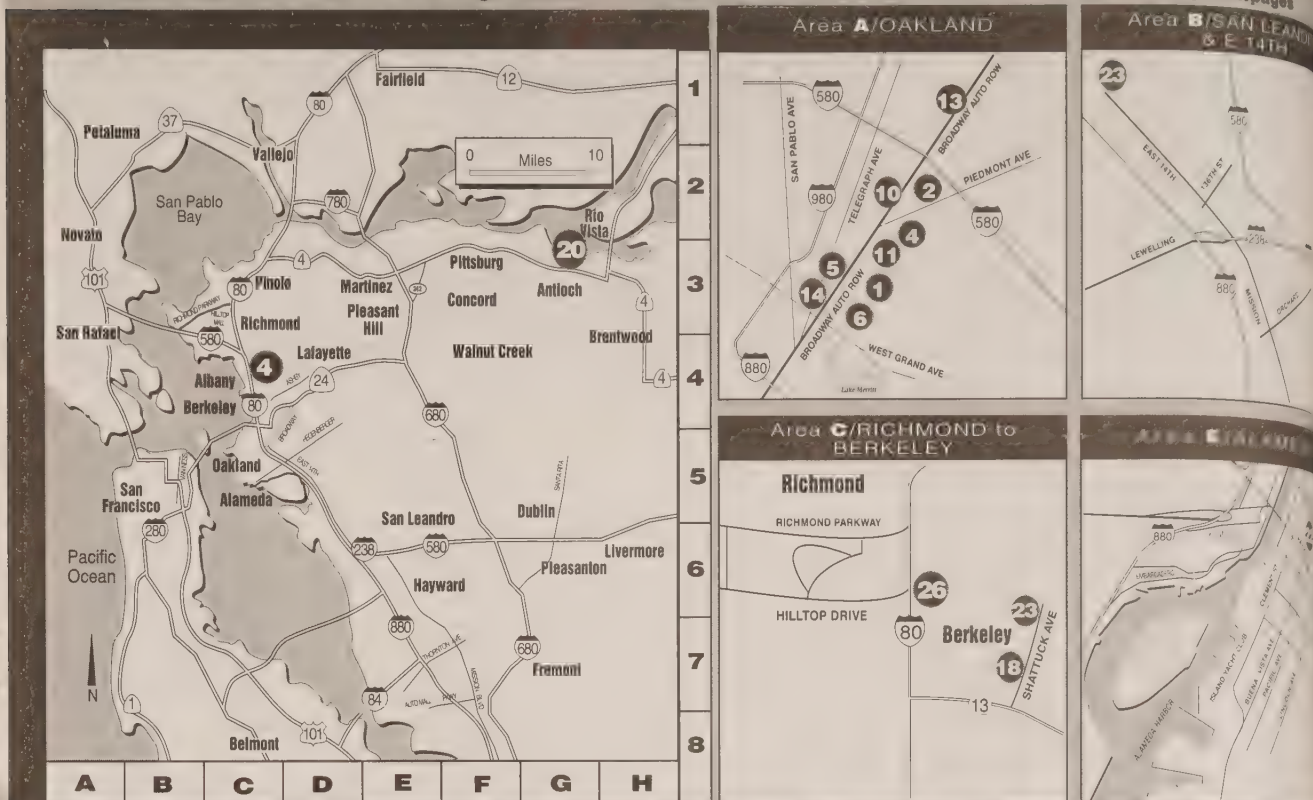
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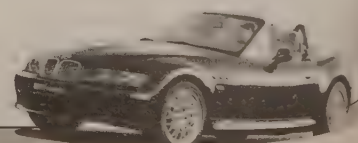
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The Chrysler Prowler: a drivable toy — impractical and exciting

BY BOB/MATT HAGIN
— ECD AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Matt: The last time we reviewed the Prowler, we had to give it the Plymouth prerogative of being a "retro" first hit the market. When this "retro" first hit the market, it was assigned to the Plymouth marquee, but even then the handwriting was on the wall for that venerable old marque. Chrysler wanted to give the Plymouth a good send-off by naming the Prowler a Plymouth.

Bob: Either that or some executive near the top had a thing about alliteration. The Prowler hasn't seen many changes during the years of production.

For 11,000 enthusiasts have taken notice of the car. Not a big number, but in these years, it's garnered much more than its numerical share of publicity and it's a head-turner when it appears on the streets.

Matt: It's a hard car to ignore, Dad. Its colors of choice are either candy-apple red or metallic gold or bright yellow. All of the auto reviews state that it's im-

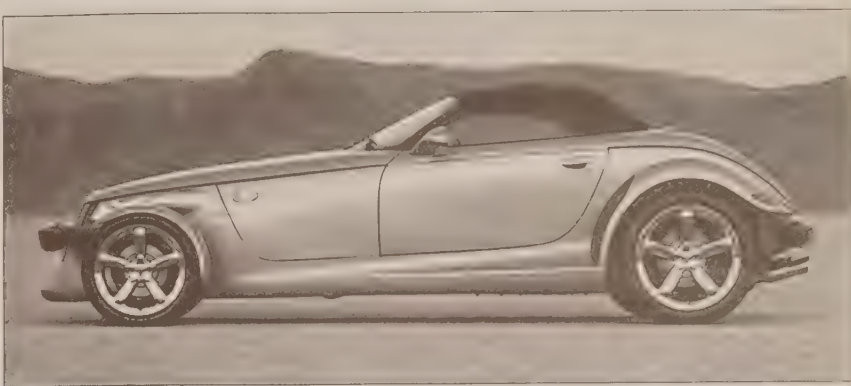
practical and expensive but that's true of most exciting cars that are, in reality, drivable toys.

The power train of the Prowler is off the Chrysler shelf, which includes a 3.5-liter all-aluminum V-6 that's more often found powering a Chrysler front-wheel drive sedan of some sort.

It's a single overhead-cam design with 24 valves and it puts out 256 horses which is more than enough to get this 2,900-pound roadster rolling along pretty well.

It backs up to a four-speed automatic transaxle that has a stick-shift system that lets it either be shifted up and down manually or left to shift for itself. The suspension front and rear is independent, and if anyone has any doubts about this, the suspension units are pretty much out in the open for close inspection.

Bob: The two-seater body has the looks of a custom, non-homemade street-rod show car of the '70s, with a high-waisted body, a high, rounded tail section and a sloping, tapered nose that almost comes



THE CHRYSLER PROWLER is a hard car to ignore. Its colors of choice are either candy-apple red or metallic gold or bright yellow.

to a point up front.

The grille has the slight '37 Ford look to it but since there aren't many of these on the street, you'll have to take my word.

The slit-like headlights are flared into the hood and the front fenders are cycle-type that turn with the wheels. The only thing that spoils the front end is the oversized front bumper that sticks out like a sore thumb and it must have filled the Prowler designers with disgust to have to put it up there.

They had no choice, of course, since the government says cars must have bumpers. Those agencies have no sense of style.

Matt: As I recall from seeing photos of early '50s street rods, their interiors were pretty stark but the Prowler interior is very

plush. It has the typical modern "tombstone" control panel in front of the floor-mounted gear selector and the other control switches for the windows and such are in the door panels.

But the wide-oval dash panel is strictly '50s, with a big speedometer in the middle and two small gauges on either side. Also in vintage style is the steering column-mounted tach.

There are small roll bars behind the two seats and a compartment back there to hold the top.

Bob: In typical street-rod fashion, the front and rear tires and wheels are different sizes. The front are 17 by 7.5 inches while the backs are 20 by 10 inches. Needless to say, the Prowler doesn't carry a spare for either end so they're run-flats.

Although it wasn't designed to morph into a true race car like the Viper, the Prowler handling is outstanding. And in a car that is so "open-air" and with its exposed front wheels and suspension, it seems to be going twice as fast as is indicated by the speedometer.

Matt: When it was first introduced, Chrysler executives said that the life-expectancy of the Prowler would only be five years and its time is now up. It will be dropped after this year and the last 300 will be painted in its now-famous Inca Gold.

Bob: They say what goes around comes around so I guess I'll have to wait another 50 years for the California Street-Rod look to come back in style again.

2002 CHRYSLER PROWLER

Suggested Retail	\$44,625
Price as Tested	\$45,400
Engine Type	3.5 Liter V-6 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	215 cid/3518 cc
Horsepower	256 @ 6,400 rpm
Transmission	255 @ 3,950 rpm
Drive Type	Four-speed automatic
Weight	2,879 Pounds
Capacity	12 gallons
MPG	(F/R) P225/45HR17 - P295/40HR20
MPG	(F/R) Disc/disc
MPG	Front-engine/rear-wheel-drive
MPG	Two-passenger/two-door
MPG	City/highway 17/23
MPG	0-60 7.5 seconds

*Optional multi-point fuel injection



HONDA

RIGHT IS HONDA'S first hybrid, right. It will be joined by a new hybrid Civic soon. The Civic is a car that environmentalists, auto industry analysts, and even Honda's competitors say is a very significant new vehicle.

Honda steers hybrid to mass market

BY ROYAL FORD
— THE BOSTON GLOBE

ROYAL WELLS, Calif. — The car, with its electric motor boosting its small gasoline engine, has easily climbed a tortuous 4,000-foot level in the mountains. On its descent, kinetic energy captured by braking has been captured and used to recharge the batteries that power the motor.

Now, zooming down an access ramp to about 10, its speed climbs effortlessly to 65 miles an hour. Pressure on the gas pedal is eased and the speed drops to 65. A gauge on the dash indicates that, at this speed, the four-door, five-passenger Insight is getting 58 miles per gallon of gas.

This is not an experimental car. The Honda Civic gasoline/electric hybrid, now at Honda dealers beginning this spring, is a car that environmentalists, auto industry analysts, and even Honda's competitors say is a very significant new vehicle.

That's because it is the first time an all-electric popular model is being offered as a mass-market car in the United States. In response to the Civic, they say, could be the lone for hybrid development.

When the Bush administration announced last month that it was shifting away from federal support behind development of hydrogen fuel cell cars, there were complaints that, with fuel cells as much as 20 years away from mass production, Detroit's Big Three automakers would now relax efforts to produce cleaner, more fuel-efficient autos.

They do, Japanese manufacturers are saying. The demand for hybrids. And Honda is not the only player. Toyota plans to sell as many as 300,000 hybrids annually by 2005.

U.S. sales will be a significant part of Toyota's strategy for advanced technology vehicles, though it doesn't specify which Toyota models might make it across the Pacific in hybrid form, but Toyota already has a hybrid minivan called the Estima and a four-door sedan called the Crown.

Toyota stores and choosing their customers from the way they choose between automatic and standard transmissions," Toyota spokesman Wade Hoyt.

Toyota and Honda first introduced American hybrids two years ago with the Insight and Toyota's Prius. Both were sold in limited numbers for around \$20,000 and were subsidized by their manufacturers, who acknowledged they were demonstration vehicles meant

to acquaint the public with hybrid technology.

Hybrids use small gasoline engines, boosted by electric motors, for propulsion. A system called regenerative braking keeps the batteries that power the electric motor charged. Hybrids such as these do not need to be recharged.

The two-seat Insight delivers 70 miles per gallon on the highway and 61 in the city, while the larger Prius, which seats five, gets 45 miles per gallon on the highway and 52 in the city. Annual sales goals for both — about 5,000 for the Insight and 15,000 cars for the Prius — were modest. Part of that is because the cars were seen as a bit gimmicky.

With the Civic, analysts say, Honda has moved beyond gimmicks. The new Civic will be in dealerships by March at a cost of about \$20,000 — about \$1,500 more expensive than a comparable gasoline-powered model. It gets 51 miles per gallon on the highway and 47 in the city with a manual transmission, and 48 miles per gallon on the highway and in the city with an automatic transmission.

A conventional Civic, by contrast, gets 39 miles per gallon on the highway and 32 in the city with a manual transmission, and 38 miles per gallon on the highway and 30 in the city with an automatic transmission. Honda expects to sell about 2,000 per month, though it is building the hybrid on the same assembly line as the standard Civic and production could be increased quickly if demand is there.

James Kliesch, co-author of the "Green Book," which annually rates cars and trucks for their environmental acceptability, said the technology is ready for a mass audience. "The brand recognition of the Civic is something that will draw in consumers who might have shied away from something like the Insight," he said.

"The Honda is significant in that it comes in a very user friendly form," added John Casessa, an auto industry analyst for Merrill Lynch. Casessa cautioned, however, that continued low gasoline prices in the United States could be a hurdle to hybrid sales.

Driving the Civic hybrid is much like driving any car. It comes with either a five-speed manual transmission, or a highly efficient version of an automatic called a continuously variable transmission. The electric motor boosts the 1.3-liter gasoline engine at takeoff, during acceleration, or in climbing steep grades.

As the car slows, three of the four cylinders in the gasoline engine shut down to conserve fuel. At full stop, the engine shuts off until the driver steps on the gas again. Other than the strange quiet at stoplights, there is little that indicates it is different from

any other auto.

Giving hybrids a "familiar feel" will be a key to selling them to the American public, industry leaders and analysts believe.

The Japanese have thus far concentrated on developing very high mileage, smaller cars. But technology developed by both Honda and Toyota could spread through their lineups of models, including SUVs and trucks.

In the United States, where light trucks — pickups, SUVs, and minivans — account for nearly half of all sales, manufacturers are looking to increase mileage by putting hybrid systems into these bigger vehicles.

Ford, in particular, has an ambitious hybrid plan that is not unlike Honda's approach with the Civic. By late next year, its popular SUV, the Escape, will be offered with a hybrid option.

"Our goal is to give the customer what they are used to and add great fuel economy on top of that," said Sara Tatchio, environmental vehicles spokeswoman for Ford Motor Co. Tatchio said the company expects the Escapes to sell in the "tens of thousands."

Early projections are that it will achieve as much as 40 miles per gallon using a four-cylinder engine and electric motor. "That's pretty amazing for an SUV," Kliesch said.

General Motors and DaimlerChrysler are not looking for such significant gains in the near future. Both are looking to introduce large hybrid pickup trucks in 2004. But even that approach, Kliesch said, can make significant inroads in fuel consumption.

Given the large numbers of trucks and SUVs on the roads, he said, a 3- or 4-mile-per-gallon improvement in that fleet would be as significant as saving 15 miles per gallon or more in smaller vehicles at the high end of the fuel economy chart.

DaimlerChrysler had originally announced it would offer its Durango SUV as a hybrid, but some in the industry say that plan has been shelved in favor of a hybrid van. DaimlerChrysler did not comment on plans for the Durango or the van.

The company's announced plan is for a version of its Dodge Ram pickup truck. General Motors will offer hybrid versions of its Silverado and Sierra pickups.

What the DaimlerChrysler and General Motors vehicles have in common is that each will be equipped with 110-volt outlets, turning their hybrid systems into generators. Contractors could plug their power tools into their trucks, tailgaters could make use of the outlets to plug in refrigerators or heaters and, if homes lose electrical power in bad weather, a household could be plugged into the family truck until power returns.

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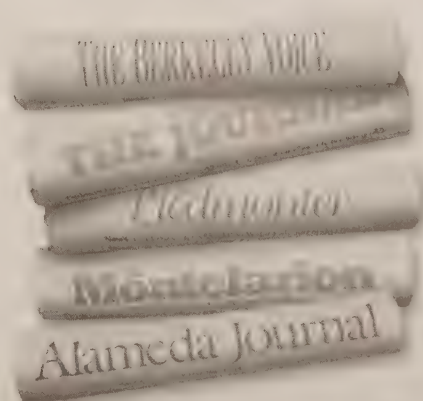
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